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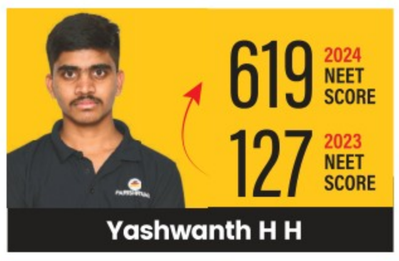
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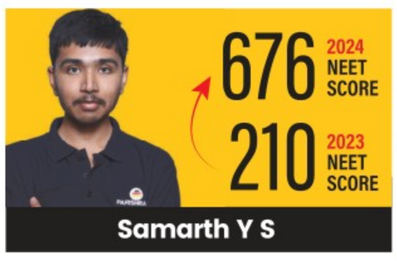
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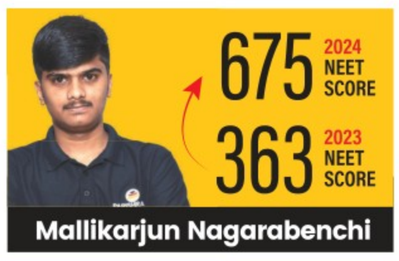
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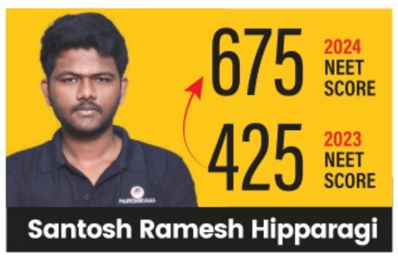
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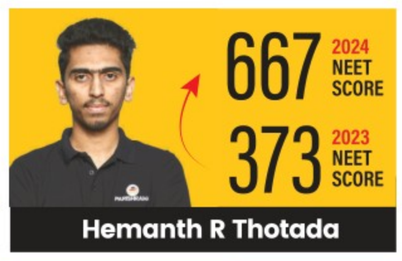
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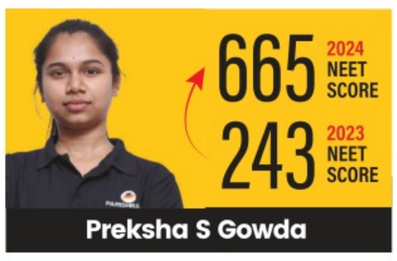
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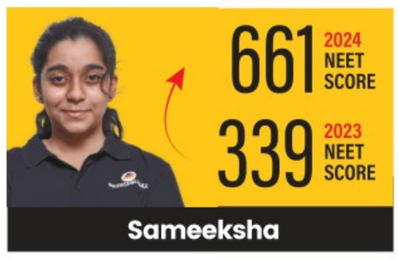
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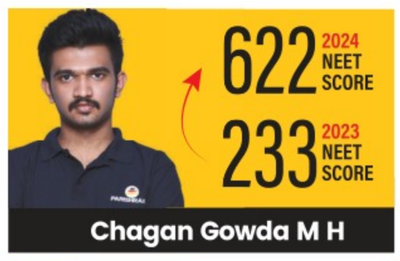
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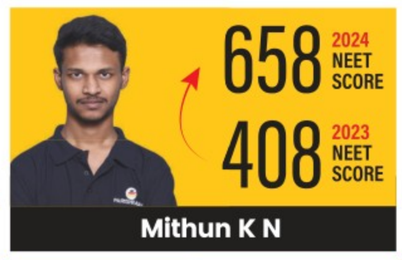
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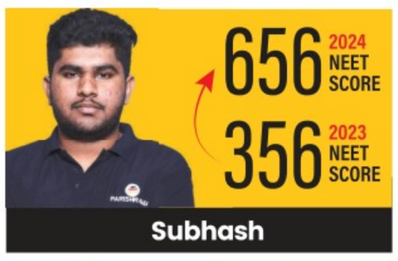
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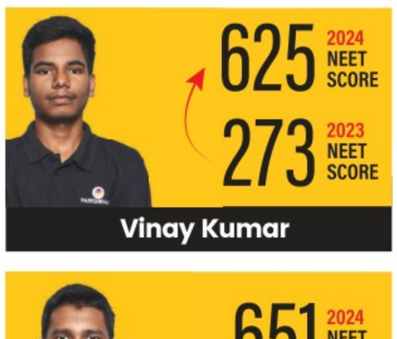
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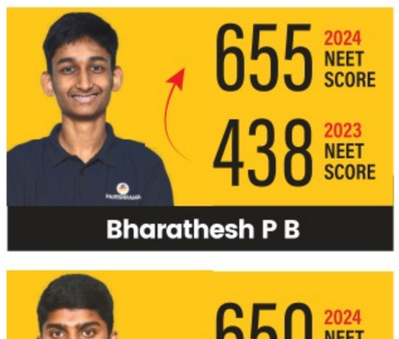
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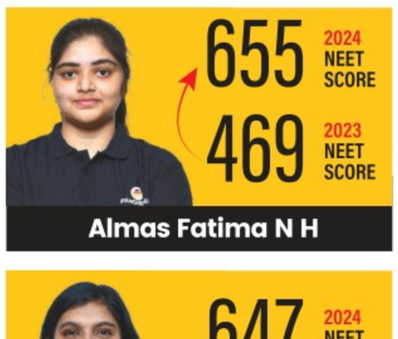
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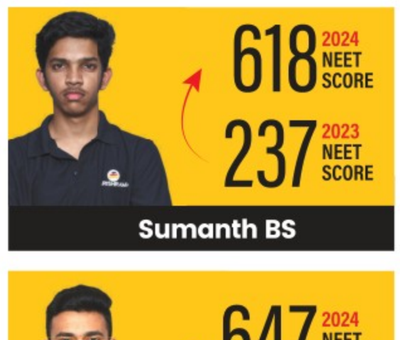
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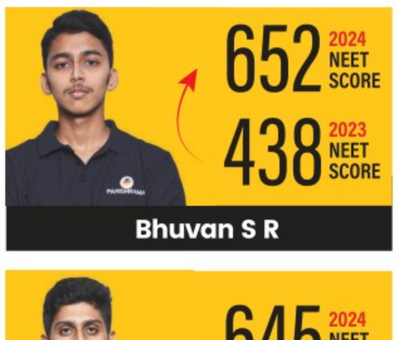
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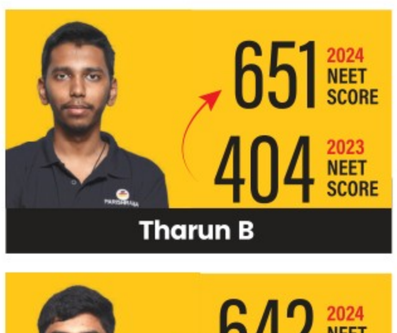
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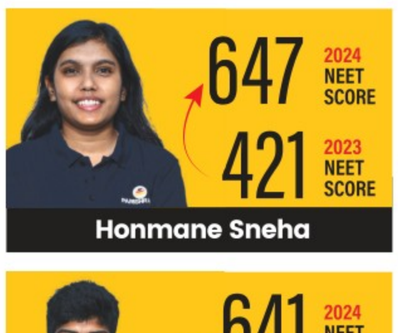
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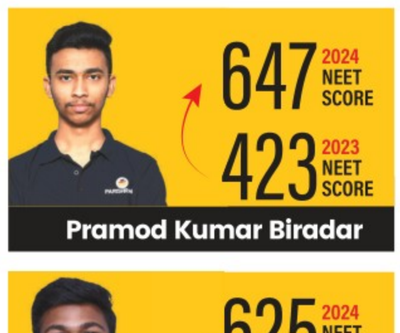
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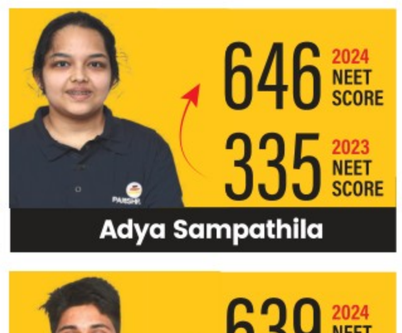
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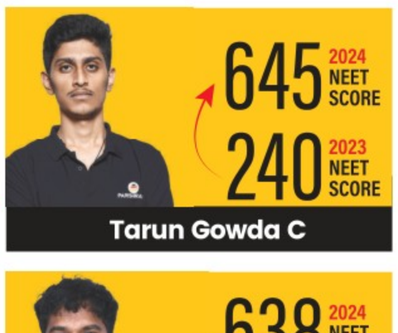
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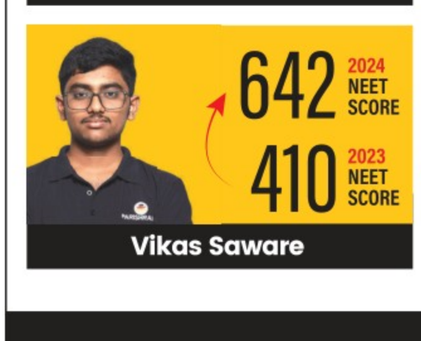
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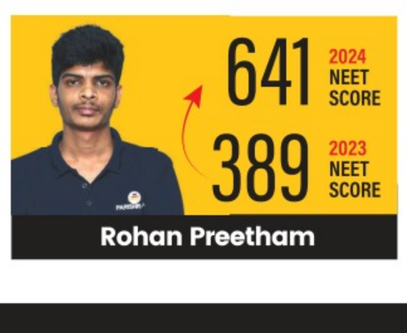
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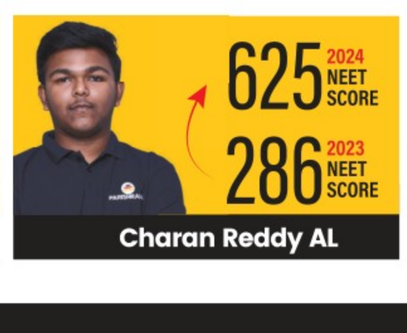
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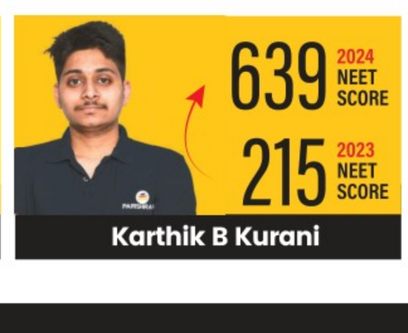
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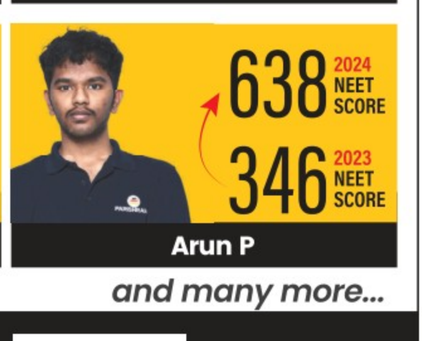
638 2024 NEET SCORE
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Arun P

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GLITTERING CAREER

Test cricket's shining jewel

Kohli, a modern-day giant in the classical format, has decided to walk into the sunset

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MINISTER REVIEWS

Sowing of kharif crops has increased: Centre

NEWS » PAGE 12

STATE OF PLAY

A rally with a deeper intent

Solidarity march in T.N. aimed at erasing tag of DMK being 'secessionist'

OPINION » PAGE 9

A SETBACK

Genoa holds leader Napoli to a draw

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

High drama at city pub

BENGALURU
High drama ensued as armed Quick Response Teams from the Bengaluru City Police surrounded a building that houses the Geometry Brewery and Kitchen, after its security guard alerted the police that he had locked up an armed intruder inside. » PAGE 2

Seat blocking: Minister unhappy with probe

BENGALURU
Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar expressed dissatisfaction over the Bengaluru City Police probe into the alleged engineering seat-blocking scam. » PAGE 3

India won't bend to Pak. nuclear blackmail: Modi

Operation Sindoor not over, cessation of hostilities only a pause, says PM in his address to the nation; Pakistan's actions in the next few days will be evaluated for any further action, he adds

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Operation Sindoor is still on, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday in his first address to the nation after the operation got under way on May 7. He added that India "will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail" while acting against terror and its sponsor, Pakistan.

India has established a "new normal" in dealing with terror incidents – of responding to them in a language that the terrorists understood, he said.

'Zero tolerance'

Referencing the surgical strikes of 2016 and the Balakot air strikes of 2019 in his address, Mr. Modi said that zero tolerance of terrorism was the guarantee for a better world.

The Prime Minister said the cessation of hostilities at the moment between India and Pakistan should be seen only as a pause and that Pakistan's actions in the next few days will be evaluated for any further action.

Mr. Modi clarified that talks with Pakistan would only take place on the issues of terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"Talks and terror cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and water and blood (referring to the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty) cannot go together," he said during the televised address.

Mr. Modi chose to sidestep U.S. President Donald Trump's statement that his administration had helped halt the conflict.

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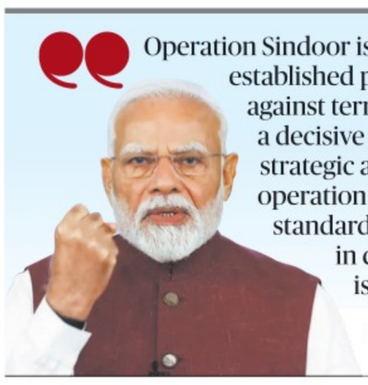
» PAGE 10
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 10 & 11



> Operation Sindoor is now India's established policy in the fight against terrorism, marking a decisive shift in India's strategic approach. The operation has set a new standard, a new normal in counter-terrorism measures
>
> NARENDRA MODI
> Prime Minister

Trump claims to have stopped a 'nuclear conflict'

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday claimed that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan. "I think it could have been a bad nuclear war," Mr. Trump said. » PAGE 11

India, Pak. to cut troops on borders

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Monday agreed to "consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction" from the borders and forward areas, the Army said, adding that their commitment to not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action will continue.

The agreement came during talks between the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday.

The agreement effectively takes forward the understanding reached between the DGMOs on Saturday to stop all firing and military activity. While the understanding was breached by Pakistan within a few hours, guns have now fallen silent and the skies remained devoid of drones on Sunday night, the Army confirmed.

Earlier in the day, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director-General of Air Operations (DGAO), said that in spite of some minor damages, "all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise." The DGAO also highlighted the role of air defence weapons, including the older and battle-proven ones, in minimising damage to both civilian and military infrastructure.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Drone downed in Punjab: official

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH
A "surveillance drone" was downed in Jalandhar of Punjab on Monday night, Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said. Meanwhile, suspected drones were being engaged at Samba in J&K, the Army said. PTI

NCW slams trolls on Misri and family, seeks restraint

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday condemned the online trolling of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family after he announced that India and Pakistan had reached an understanding on halting military actions against each other.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said in a statement that sharing of the phone number of Mr. Misri's daughter was a "grossly irresponsible act" and a "serious breach of privacy" that endangers her safety. Saying such personal attacks are unacceptable and morally indefensible, she sought restraint and respect in both online and offline spaces, and asked citizens to rise above such behaviour.

EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

Markets surge as India-Pak. tensions & tariff war ease

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty registered their biggest single-day gains in four years on Monday, skyrocketing nearly 4%, as border tensions between India and Pakistan eased and the U.S. and China agreed to lower tariffs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex soared by 2,975.43 points, or 3.74%, to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90. During the day, it rallied 3,041.5 points, or 3.82%, to a high of 82,495.97.

The 50-issue Nifty of NSE skyrocketed 916.70 points, or 3.82%, to close at 24,924.70. In intra-day trade, the barometer zoomed 936.8 points, or 3.90%, to 24,944.80.

Monday was the best day for Indian bourses since April 9, 2020, when Nifty 50 increased almost 4%.

"Nifty jumped 900+ points, partly due to the India-Pakistan ceasefire, but mainly on the news that the U.S. and China have eased tariffs and talks progressed well. A 90-day window for a trade deal has lifted sentiment, with investors hoping the worst of the trade war is behind us," said Amar Ambani, executive director, YES Securities.

Karnataka Examinations Authority launches three student-friendly digital platforms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a student-friendly move, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) launched three digital initiatives on Monday. These include a portal that gives all relevant information of colleges in the State, a mobile app that provides all services, and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot.

Speaking at an event launching the three services, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said the KEA was consistently adopting modern technology to streamline examination processes and make them more candidate-centric. "Such advancements ensure timely and accurate information, eliminate confusion, and reduce the dependency on intermediaries," he said.

A crucial stage before option entry is selecting the right college. Previously, students had to rely on scattered sources for information.

UGCET portal

The new UGCET college portal consolidates all relevant information about colleges in one place. Colleges have themselves uploaded their prospectuses on the portal.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

U.S., China agree to temporarily roll back most tariffs for talks

Associated Press
GENEVA

U.S. and Chinese officials said on Monday that they had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war to allow for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who announced the tariff reductions at a news conference in Geneva with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, said the U.S. agreed to drop its 145% tariff rate on Chinese goods to 30%, while China agreed to lower its rate on U.S. goods to 10%.

China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides agreed to cancel 91% in tariffs on each other's goods and suspend another 24% in tariffs for 90 days, bringing the total reduction to 115 percentage points.

The Ministry called the agreement an important step for the resolution of the two countries' differences and said it lays the foundation for further cooperation. "This initiative aligns with the expectations of producers and consumers in both countries and serves the interests of both nations as well as the common interests of the world," the Chinese Ministry statement said.

A joint statement issued by the two countries said China also agreed to suspend or remove other measures it has taken since April 2 in response to the U.S. tariffs.

'A MIXED BAG FOR INDIA'
» PAGE 13

K.R. DEEPAK, SANDEEP SAXENA, K. MURALI KUMAR

The Australian report card in the IPL 2025 examination

Starc and Hazlewood have carried the hopes of the respective franchises; it is noteworthy that both of them have struck to their strengths while yielding the desired results; David at the death for RCB leads the pack among the willow-wielders from Down Under

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

The precision-personified Josh Hazlewood has been the standout Australian performer of this IPL season. The 'Hazlegod' nickname, conferred on by RCB fans, feels earned.

In stark contrast, Glenn Maxwell has been drastically underwhelming considering his T20 form before the IPL; Jake Fraser-McGurk has regressed from explosive to ineffective; Travis Head, though he's still contributing, hasn't dominated pace like last season and is clearly below his blistering 2024 standards.

From the best to the worst, here's a performance breakdown of the regularly-featured key Australian players in this IPL season.

Josh Hazlewood (18 wkts): At the MRF Pace Foundation ground here in March, Glenn McGrath, asked to pick pacers he thought would do well this season, picked Josh Hazlewood - besides, of course, Jasprit Bumrah (no-brainer) - for their "best control."

McGrath added: "You don't have to bowl a completely different ball every ball, but as long as you have that execution..."

How well has Hazlewood executed for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru this season! To begin with, a honed skill and a physical attribute have helped him shine. Nothing fancy.

Honed skill: Consistently bowling in the channel outside off.

Physical attribute: 1.96 m tall = high release point = steep bounce.

In the past year (until the first week of April), almost half of Hazlewood's bowling (45 per cent) across formats has been in the channel outside off! Only Dushmantha Chameera betters him among all the seamers to have bowled at least 250 balls in that time.

RCB's pace attack had the best dismissal rate with short balls (7.5 balls per dismissal) until its reverse fixture versus Rajasthan Royals in Bengaluru. Hazlewood has significantly contributed to it. For instance, his persistence with short length, despite getting hammered, fetched him Yashasvi Jaiswal's wicket in that match. And all his three wickets against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai came off bouncers.

He's been economical too. In the PowerPlay, he's picked up seven wickets at an economy of 7.22, the second-best among those who've picked up at least five wickets and among those who've bowled at least 100 balls in that phase.

At the Death (last four overs), he's picked up six wickets at an economy of 9.04, the second-best among those who've picked up at least five wickets in that phase. He has bowled the second-most dot balls at the Death (26), and was the first to bowl a hundred dot balls (103) overall. Where he's been unique in that phase is that he's bowled 72 per cent of his deliveries in the good, short-of-good, and short lengths until that RR fixture at home. He's hit the short-of-good length the most and has bowled only 10 per cent of yorkers.

That said, his execution of yorkers is also remarkable. For instance, he nailed seven yorkers in his two overs at the Death against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur.

Where he's been a tad unlucky is that at one point, 23 per cent of the boundaries he'd conceded had come off false shots, the highest such percentage for any bowler. But even that only adds to his brilliance this season.

He's picked up six wickets in his opening overs, the most for any bowler, that now a wicket is expected of him whenever he begins his spell!

Tim David: Hazlewood's teammate, slotted into the finisher role, now owns it. Until the PBKS match in Mullanpur, where he came in early and had to bide his time with wickets falling around him, he was striking at 179 in his first ten deliveries of an innings this season. That's a drastic improvement from his past two seasons - 144 in 2023, 137 in 2024.

His strike rate of 219.29 with an average of 62.50 at the Death this season is elite, to say the least. While he has the best strike rate among those who've faced at least 50 balls at the Death, he's also hit the most sixes (11) in that phase.

Mitchell Marsh: With 378 runs at 155.55, Marsh has had a fine season. His power-hitting as an opener has helped Lucknow Super Giants get to substantial scores in the PowerPlay.

Perhaps, relying on his muscle power, he hasn't shown any inclination to target the shorter side, despite a significant disparity in the boundary sizes. In the first five matches, he'd hit 48 per cent of his runs towards the longer side and only 23 per cent on the shorter side. The rest had come straight.

He's adept at taking down pace, and so batting in the PowerPlay played to his strength. He's struck at 157.24 in the PowerPlay and pace in general at 170.06. He's hit the fourth-most sixes (14) in the PowerPlay after Yashasvi Jaiswal (19), Priyansh Arya (16), and Ajinkya Rahane (15).

Mitchell Starc: While his compatriot Hazlewood prefers the short-of-good length at the Death, Starc is an expert in bowling yorkers. He can execute not only yorkers but also reverse-swinging yorkers. With the saliva ban lifted this season, data shows that the pacers are getting a greater average degree of swing at the Death than last season. Pronounced reverse swing could be a reason why Starc had already bowled double the number of yorkers (10) at the Death in the first five matches than he had in the first five matches last season (5). And he's bowled them at a better economy of six than last season's 13.2.

Against RR at home, when he put up a masterclass in bowling tailing yorkers across three overs, including the Super Over, he was getting around 1.2 and 1.8 degrees of swing in his last two overs and his Super Over. He's picked up half (7) of his total wickets (14) at a good economy of 9.50 at the Death.

While he has the worst PowerPlay economy (11.30) among those who have bowled at least 100 balls in that phase and an overall economy of 10.23, Starc's USP is that he's a clutch player who can get important wickets and seize the crucial moments. Sometimes, even his figures may not reflect that - like his one for 36 (in four overs) in his Player-of-the-Match performance versus RR.

Pat Cummins: Cummins' best bowling performance of the season came in SRH's last, rain-hit match versus Delhi Capitals in Hyderabad. Consequently, Sunrisers Hyderabad put up its best bowling performance of the season before it rained and the points were split.

Cummins had bowled only 16 overs in the PowerPlay in 10 innings before that match, a rounded average of 10 balls per match. He had picked up four wickets at an economy of 9.81. He'd opened the bowling only once.

So, in that must-win match against DC, he not only chose to lead from the front by opening the bowling, but also picked up a wicket each in three overs at a miserly economy of 4 in the PowerPlay. It helped him become the bowler with the third-most wickets in the PowerPlay. His overall PowerPlay economy came down to 8.89 after that match. His overall economy of 4.75 in that match is his best for SRH and his third-best in the IPL.

But where he's really struggled this season is at the Death. His economy of 13.20, compared to last season's 11.60, is the fourth-worst among those who've bowled at least 30 balls at the Death.

Travis Head: Head hasn't had a poor season, though it may seem so compared with last season. He's still striking at 156.11, but that's a big drop from last season's 191.55.

A comparison of his PowerPlay strike rates is a study in contrast, for it's a middling 155.11 to last season's 208.29! While there isn't a big difference in his strike rates versus spin in 2024 and 2025, his strike rate against pace has dropped to 155.37 from last season's 203.94. Though he has hit two fifties and got a few good starts, at times he seems to try too hard to play his shots.

Jake Fraser-McGurk: From having been the opener with the best strike rate (234.04) last season to striking at just 105.76, it's been quite a downfall for Fraser-McGurk this season. Of his 55 runs this season, 38 have come in one innings!

He's survived beyond the PowerPlay in only six of his 30 T20 innings since the conclusion of last IPL season. He seems a one-dimensional blind-hitter and needs a method to his madness.

Glenn Maxwell: Maxwell's had a horrible season, to say the least. He's hit 48 runs, striking at fewer than a run a ball (97.95). He's had 12 single-digit scores in his last 15 IPL innings.

But the interesting part is that he'd scored 674 runs in 22 T20 games, striking at 168.9, between the end of the last IPL season and the start of this season.

Perhaps, much like Stephen Fleming and his CSK did, Maxwell too has a bit of "soul-searching" to do.

Marcus Stoinis: He's batted only twice at the Death this season, and that's where he's added value to PBKS. Forty-nine of the total 82 runs he's scored this season have come at the Death at a mammoth strike rate of 306.25, the fourth-best and the best among those who have faced at least 15 balls in that phase. It includes four consecutive sixes in the 20th over off Mohammed Shami against SRH in Hyderabad.

Josh Inglis: Inglis hasn't had a remarkable season except for a sprightly cameo (30, 14b, 1x4, 4x6) inside the PowerPlay against LSG at Dharamshala.

THE GIST

- RCB's pace attack had the best dismissal rate with short balls (7.5 balls per dismissal) until its reverse fixture versus Rajasthan Royals in Bengaluru. Hazlewood has significantly contributed to it
- Against RR at home, Starc put up a masterclass in bowling tailing yorkers across three overs, including the Super Over, he was getting around 1.2 and 1.8 degrees of swing in his last two overs and his Super Over. He's picked up half (7) of his total wickets (14) at the Death
- With 378 runs at 155.55, Marsh has had a fine season. His power-hitting as an opener has helped Lucknow Super Giants get to substantial scores in the PowerPlay

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High drama at city pub as security guard claims he locked up an armed intruder

Investigation revealed that the intruder entered the premises of Geometry Brewery and Kitchen at Malleswaram. He damaged a few CCTV cameras and made away with around ₹50,000

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Quick Response Teams from the Bengaluru City Police surrounding a three-storeyed building that houses the Geometry Brewery and Kitchen (right).

High drama ensued as armed Quick Response Teams (QRTs) from the Bengaluru City Police surrounded a three-storeyed building that houses the Geometry Brewery and Kitchen, after its security guard alerted the police that he had locked up an intruder armed with a firearm inside the building, near the Malleswaram 17th Cross Bridge, Subramanya Nagar in the wee hours of Monday.

The security guard of the Geometry Brewery and Kitchen called the police helpline 112 at 4.03 a.m. saying there was an intruder on the third floor of the building and when he went to check, he was "shown a firearm", following which he ran down and locked the doors of the pub and called the police.

After multiple hours of operations overseen by Saidulu Adavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Division), Bengaluru City Police, in which each room of the building was checked, the police found no sign of an intruder still present in the building.

The suspect seemed to have fled by the time the police arrived, sources said.

Vikas Kumar Vikas, Additional Commissioner of Police (West), Bengaluru City Police, said the security guard claimed to have seen a man dressed in black, wearing gloves, mask and brandishing a pistol, intruding on the third floor of the building. He is said to have switched on the light in the manager's room alerting the guard.

"CCTV footage from the building also shows some movement initially, but they have not been recorded later," he said.

Further investigation pointed out that the intruder entered the premises breaking open the back door, made his way to the brewery office on the third floor, damaged a few CCTV cameras and made away with around ₹50,000 from the cashbox.

"An intrusion and theft have been confirmed. The intruder seems to have come in and gone out through the back door which he has broken open. Also, the security guard says he was shown a weapon that looked like a pistol. Whether the intruder was armed with a firearm or not is yet to be confirmed," a senior police official said.

'Insider involvement'

The way the intruder has directly gone to the third floor where cash is usually kept has raised suspicions of "insider involvement", a senior police official said. "Analysing the sequences of events, the intruder has switched off CCTV cameras on the premises before entering the third floor where the valuables were kept. The accused seems to have had prior information about the building, aware about the entry and exit points and has taken several precautionary measures to not be caught," the official said.

Subramanya Nagar Police have registered a case of House Burglary Theft (HBT) and have begun a probe into the case.

They are analysing footage from CCTV cameras in and around the area for leads on the intruder's identity.

Proposal to set up GTTC in Namibia

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Africa India Economic Foundation (AIEF) has proposed to establish a Government Tool & Training Centre (GTTC) in Namibia, with Karnataka's GTTC as the knowledge and technology partner.

"The AIEF, in a recent meeting with Karnataka's Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil, highlighted GTTC's potential to serve as a robust model for Africa's industrial training needs," a statement from the Minister's office said.

Over 20 centres in State

GTTC, a State-run institution with a legacy of over five decades, operates over 20 centres across Karnataka, training thousands in precision tools, mechatronics and robotics.

"GTTC boasts a strong alumni base of over five lakh skilled professionals, a curriculum aligned with real-time industrial demands and deep-rooted industry linkages," said Anil Sinde, general secretary of AIEF.

"Its operational expertise can be seamlessly adapted to African contexts," he added.

The AIEF was created to promote strategic integration of knowledge, technology, trade and investment between India and 54 African nations.

"Following this vision, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras set up an offshore campus in Zanzibar in 2023, the first ever by an IIT. This shows India's commitment to long-term collaboration in education and skilling across Africa," said Mr. Sinde.

R. Kanchanavelu, joint secretary of the AIEF emphasised that Namibia's potential as a partner, rich in natural resources including uranium, diamonds, gold, and rare earth minerals.

'Ideal choice'

"Namibia is also developing rapidly in sectors such as marine industries, energy, agribusiness, logistics, and tourism. It is politically stable, English-speaking and business-friendly, making it an ideal choice for such collaboration," he said.

Y.K. Dinesh Kumar, managing director, GTTC, noted that the partnership would create employment avenues for GTTC alumni across Africa and open up new markets for Karnataka-based MSMEs.

"This initiative positions Karnataka as a global skilling hub," Dr. Patil pointed out.

From Page One

KEA launches three student-friendly digital platforms

The portal provides detailed insights into each college's infrastructure, academic environment, labs, libraries, classrooms, hostels, course-wise fee structure, and details about both guest and permanent faculty. "Many students, unaware of college conditions, make choices blindly and later request changes. This portal will help avoid such issues by enabling informed decision making," the Minister explained.

Feature to report excess fee charges

The portal will also include a feature to report any colleges charging excess fees. Complaints filed here will be directly forwarded to the fee regulation committee, KEA sources said.

The mobile application will provide access to all services available on the KEA website, including application submission, option entry, choice selection, and fee payment. It also features push notifications to keep candidates updated. The app is particularly beneficial for students from rural areas who previously depended on cyber centres and often made errors during online application and seat allocation processes.

"Now, with the app, most procedures can be handled directly by the candidates themselves on their mobile phones," Dr. Sudhakar noted.

The chatbot will allow candidates to receive instant answers to their queries. It was launched a few days ago and since then, over 1.35 lakh students have used it to seek information, KEA sources said.

All official KEA information is uploaded to the chatbot system. Candidates can simply type their questions and receive accurate responses based on the available data. This eliminates the need for visiting KEA offices or contacting external centers for information. Currently, the chatbot responds only in English, but a Kannada version is in the works and expected to be launched within a month. The system is being managed by BSNL, KEA sources added.

Observatory inaugurated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.S. Ramaiah Vidyaniketan (MSRV) on Monday, inaugurated the Ramaiah Observatory, marking a significant advancement in STEM education in the State.

According to MSRV, this is the first CBSE school in the State to establish a five-metre observatory equipped with a 12-inch reflector telescope.

The facility was unveiled in the presence of M.R. Seetharam, chairman of the Gokula Education Foundation.

CHANGE OF NAME

I NARAHARI S, S/o Sreedhara K, R/o No. 424, H Cross, 2nd Phase, Ideal Homes Township, Nimishamba Temple, Halagevaderahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098 do hereby solemnly affirm and state that in my Aadhar Card and other documents my name is mentioned as **NARAHARI S** but in my Passport my name is mentioned as **NARAHARI** and in my marriage certificate it is mentioned as **NARAHARI SREEDHARA**. above mentioned all three names are one and the same and belong to me only. I intend to continue and retain my name in future as NARAHARI S. sworn before notary.

CHANGE OF NAME

I DIVYASHREE S, W/o Sri Narahari S, R/o No. 424, H Cross, 2nd Phase, Ideal Homes Township, Nimishamba Temple, Halagevaderahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098 do hereby solemnly affirm and state that in my Aadhar Card and other documents my name is mentioned as **DIVYASHREE S,** but in my Passport my name is mentioned as **DIVYASHREE**. above mentioned two names are one and the same and belong to me only. I intend to continue and retain my name in future as **DIVYASHREE S.** sworn before notary.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE-SCADA/EE(D)/AEE-PLCCSD/F-48/2025-26/483-85 Date:12.05.2025

BRIEF SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry KPTCL/SEE-SCADA/CAMC-AC-015/2025-26, from authorized service providers for Air-conditioners for **"CAMC for 38Nos. of Air-conditioners of different capacity/make/model installed in the Control Centres of SLDC/SCADA at A.R.Circle & Nelamangala, Bengaluru".**

The details can be obtained by logging on to **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 14.05.2025** and the last date & time for receipt of bid is as in KPP Portal. Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal and if any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum /Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer, Ele., SCADA, KPTCL, #28, Race Course Cross Road, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-2970049.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Walk in Interview-Doctors

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Notification for Walk-in-Inetrview for engagement of 01 Full time Medical Practitioner at Railway Hospital, Hubballi on Contract basis.

Description of Work

South Western Railway, Head Quarters office, Hubballi is Inviting application to engage one (01) Full time Medical Practitioner (GDMO) on contract basis for a period of one year to perform all the regular duties of IRHS i,e. Night Duties, Regular OPD & IPD duties, attend emergency calls, Train accident siren calls etc., at Railway Central Hospital Hubballi by way of submission of applications through email for open market candidates and from Retired Railway Doctors/Retired Medical Officers of Central/State Government

Educational Qualification : General Duty Doctors : M.B.B.S with valid registration certificate after completion of three months compulsory rotatory internship.
No of Vacancies : One (01) (GDMO)
Place of Walk-in-Interview : - Office of the Medical Director (MD), Central Hospital, Gadag Road, Hubballi.
Date & Time of Walk-in-Interview : 04-06-2025 (Wednesday) from 11:00 hrs. onwards.

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Personnel Officer
PUB/102/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**

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AXIS BANK **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION**
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **23.05.2025 at 12:30PM to 3:30PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/C No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Banashankari, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx506629	Basudev Pramanik	705519	15-Feb-24	222.800	164.600
Banashankari, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx140553	Simran Sulthan	319401	30-Jan-25	63.700	63.300
Bangarapet [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx594221	M Vanitha	554041.88	24-Mar-25	175.600	169.900
Bangarapet [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx717615	Porselvi	529972	24-Mar-25	205.200	205.000
Basaveshwar Nagar, Bangalore[Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx235777	Chandan V	145740	04-Nov-24	31.300	30.800
Channapatna [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx712679	Shalini B	1550275	30-Mar-25	339.900	333.900
Channapatna [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx314087	Syed Ajmal	416033	30-Jan-25	90.500	80.000
Channapatna [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx617162	Govindaiah .	175266	24-Mar-25	45.800	44.900
Channapatna [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx618220	Govindaiah .	89095	24-Mar-25	22.500	21.200
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx245974	Archana S	1773027	27-Sep-24	276.700	264.800
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx247048	Archana S	198064	27-Sep-24	35.600	33.300
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx822309	Somashekara M	156026	27-Sep-24	19.700	19.000
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx205838	Shiva M	72803.05	24-Mar-25	14.000	14.000
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx422576	Vinod Kumar K N .	49794	24-Mar-25	10.200	10.200
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx418241	Nagesh C	31329.64	24-Mar-25	6.300	6.100
Chikballapur Kola [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx268653	Naveen N	64036	10-Oct-23	8.700	8.400
Chintamani [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx309797	Thejesh N	359160	28-Dec-23	88.800	88.000
Chintamani [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx698863	Thejesh N	291441	20-Nov-23	65.500	65.300
Chintamani [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx010654	Thejesh N	163321	30-May-23	41.600	38.600
Chintamani [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx313145	Thejesh N	143832	28-Dec-23	35.250	32.000
Cox Town, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx294640	Syed Khaja Sabihuddin	165989.25	24-Mar-25	44.500	41.200
Devanahalli,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx388356	Mahesh N	32693	07-Sep-24	7.100	6.100
Dod Ballapur,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx192935	Mailarappa	1874794	27-Sep-24	290.000	290.000
Dod Ballapur,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx287330	Chand Pasha .	92419	26-Jul-24	23.100	23.100
Garvebhavipalya [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx432570	Nodi Akther	202282	28-Feb-25	57.000	56.500
Garvebhavipalya [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx359241	Shivakumar .	21828.66	24-Mar-25	7.400	6.500
Hoskote,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx700332	Mohana K	146454	24-Mar-25	29.600	28.100
Hoskote,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx618027	K Mohan	45678	27-Sep-24	11.600	10.500
ITI Layout Bngr [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx078755	Rohini Rajesh	64291	28-Nov-24	14.200	14.200
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx551855	Devineni Anil Kumar	247256.36	24-Mar-25	67.100	55.100
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx140621	Wajith	182382	30-Jan-25	39.000	38.000
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx474021	Mohan C	111205	24-Mar-25	24.200	23.300
Kadugodi Bngr [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx822623	Pradyumna Barik	38039	30-Jan-25	7.800	7.700
Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx351542	Sai Venkat Reddy N	433756.08	04-Nov-24	97.000	91.000
Kasthuri Nagar,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx699430	S Latha	411585	24-Mar-25	118.700	111.300
Kolar [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx633290	Venkataravanappa .	304749.52	24-Mar-25	59.800	58.800
Kolar [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx629582	Arbaz Pasha S	314249	24-Mar-25	73.000	70.800
Kolar [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx489712	K N Anand	251953	30-Jan-25	49.600	47.100
Kolar [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx529820	Chowdegowda V S	70098	24-Mar-25	14.300	13.900
Kolar [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx576271	Harisha C S	49833	28-Nov-24	12.600	11.000
Koramangala, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx629291	Abhinash .	126612	24-Mar-25	25.200	24.400
Koramangala, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx968690	Samyak Dash	120189	15-Feb-24	28.100	26.800
Koramangala, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx816524	Tamil Selvi	57060.51	24-Mar-25	16.900	16.500
Mahadevpura Bngr [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx162867	Usha	58559	24-Mar-25	12.300	12.100
Marathahalli, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx361594	Ashraf	78666	02-Apr-24	25.600	20.700
Nandini Layout Bngr Kt	Xxxxxxxxxx169868	Harshakumar S	81297	24-Mar-25	25.100	16.600
Prashanth Nagar	Xxxxxxxxxx964187	Gurushankar H A	57952	07-Sep-24	11.700	11.700
R T Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx244959	Mohammed Adnan Ali Siddiqui	416997.06	24-Mar-25	94.100	91.600
Rajajinagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx743029	B N Prem Kumar	211758	24-Mar-25	72.800	72.700
Ramanagara Rmm Kt	Xxxxxxxxxx779814	Padma D	144914.48	24-Mar-25	37.900	33.900
RBI Layout ,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx220762	Shaziya Sulthan	292560	04-Nov-24	64.200	62.000
RBI Layout ,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx056429	G Praveen Kumar	123671.9	24-Mar-25	27.500	27.000
Robertsonpet [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx997160	Archana P	191665	20-Nov-23	36.900	36.800
Shanthinagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx029077	Bharath O M	32976	08-May-24	9.800	9.700
Tiptur [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx134419	Jayamma R R	50104	28-Feb-25	9.950	9.950
Vidyaranyapura,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx596166	Sudarshan S N	120806	06-Jan-25	52.400	52.300
Vidyaranyapura,Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx209937	Shivappa .	52342.55	24-Mar-25	9.900	9.800
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx551839	Mohammed Ulfath	554900	24-Mar-25	208.500	203.800
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	Xxxxxxxxxx132691	Revathi H M	142247.42	24-Mar-25	32.000	29.600

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 23.05.2025 between 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

THE HINDU GROUP

SPORTSTAR INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE

DAY 53

Play now & start winning!

1. Who was the last Indian cricketer to score a triple century in international Test cricket?
2. In which year did India record its first-ever Test match and series win on Pakistani soil?
3. Who joins Don Bradman, Brian Lara, and Chris Gayle in the elite group of cricketers to have scored two triple centuries in Test cricket?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Carl Lewis

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1. Arvind Kumar, Mumbai | 2. Ganesh Pillai, Trivandrum | 3. Vijayalakshmi.V, Neyveli

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JAYANAGAR 9TH BLOCK BRANCH
No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore.
Email: ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank; Ph. No.: 9137110462

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Depost are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: Borrower: Mr. S Kannaiah S/o K Venkataswamy, No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010. **Co-Applicant: Ms. Kavitha K W/o Sri S Kannaiah,** No. 616, 5th Cross, 1st Floor, 2nd Block, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru – 560050. **Also at:** #2069, 8th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560010.

Amount due: Rs.22,98,257.51/- as on **30.08.2024** plus interest, costs and incidental charges.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: All that Piece and Parcel of Property bearing New Municipal No 745/A, PID No 54-302-745/A,formed and developed by Kempegowda HBCS LTD Carved Out of Sy. No 101/1, 101/3, 102, 105/2, 107/3, 108/1 and 108/2 Situated at Kathriguppe Village, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore South Taluk and measuring East to West 24 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in all measuring 960 Sq Ft and Bounded on: **East by:** Site No 746, **West By:** Site No 745, **North by:** Site No 748 and **South By:** Road and Residential Building constructed thereon.

Reserve Price: 1,18,65,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh, Sixty Five Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 11,86,500/-
(Rupees Eleven Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Only)
Date and time of E-Auction: 30-05-2025 between 12:00 P.M. to 05:00 PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction
E-Auction website: https://baanknet.com

For Details terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to **ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank** or contact No. **9137110462,** No. 1010, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore

Date : 08.05.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

East Asians began evolving to drink milk before rearing cattle

The mutations that confer lactase persistence emerged independently in different populations; their emergence in North European and African populations appears to have coincided with domestication of cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep, and other livestock, which began about 11,000 years ago

D.P. Kasbekar

The coincidental emergence of lactase persistence mutations with livestock domestication was taken by many scientists to be a textbook example of convergent evolution. TADEU/UNSPLASH

Female mammals produce milk to nourish their young. Much of the nourishment comes from lactose, the major sugar in milk. The lactose is broken down in the infant's small intestine into the more simpler sugars, glucose, and galactose, which are readily absorbed by the small intestine. The break-down, or digestion, of lactose is mediated by an enzyme called lactase.

After weaning, a baby rapidly loses the ability to produce lactase. When adults consume milk, cheese, ice cream or other dairy products, many of them experience unpleasant effects like bloating, flatulence, and diarrhoea. This is because the undigested lactose passes into the large intestine, where it is utilised by the bacteria residing there. This produces hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and methane, and the unabsorbed sugars increase water flow into the bowels to produce diarrhoea. These are the hallmarks of lactose intolerance.

Yet millions of people around the world regularly indulge in milkshakes, cheese pizzas, and ice cream sundaes even as adults. This is because they carry genetic mutations that allow them to continue producing lactase even as adults. This trait is called lactase persistence.

A textbook example

The mutations that confer lactase persistence emerged independently in different populations. Their emergence in North European and African populations in particular appears to have coincided with the domestication of cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep, and other livestock, which began about 11,000 years ago. The cultural shift from hunting/gathering to pastoralism gave continued access to meat, milk, and hides from herds of domesticated animals.

The coincidental emergence of lactase persistence mutations with livestock domestication was taken by many scientists at the time to be a "textbook example" of convergent evolution. That is, the independent evolution of similar traits in distantly related populations. Experts believed it was driven, in the words of a 2007 paper in *Nature Genetics*, by the "strong selective pressure resulting from shared cultural traits – animal domestication and adult milk consumption."

A wrinkle in the textbook

Scientists may need to reevaluate this neat summation in the light of new findings reported by a team of researchers from Fudan University in Shanghai, China; the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, in Leipzig, Germany; and the Université de Lyon in France. Their findings were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The researchers found a distinct evolutionary pathway for lactase persistence in East Asian populations, which includes the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Vietnamese. Unlike the gene-and-culture coevolution well-documented in African and European groups, the East Asian lactase persistence gene had come from the Neanderthals, an archaic group of humans that went extinct about 30,000 years ago.

When the researchers conducted population genetic analyses of the part of the genome containing the lactase gene, they found evidence of pre-agricultural selection pressures beginning more than 30,000 years ago. That is, the East Asian genomes began evolving towards lactase persistence several millennia before these populations began to domesticate livestock.

This early evolution likely targeted advantages related to the immune system rather than lactose digestion directly. The researchers found the East Asian (Neanderthal-derived) lactase gene showed the same expression pattern as the mutant responsible for lactase persistence in Europeans. This suggested it also conferred lactate persistence.

Neanderthals in our genome

About 7 million years ago, the evolutionary line leading to the contemporary *Homo sapiens* diverged from the one leading to our closest living cousins, the chimpanzees and bonobos. About 800,000 years ago, our line split once more: one population broke away and migrated to Eurasia, adapting to cold climes and eventually becoming the Neanderthals. The other stayed put in Africa and, by about 200,000 years ago, evolved into modern humans.

Modern humans migrated out of Africa into Eurasia 120,000 to 80,000 years ago, and came into contact with their Neanderthal cousins there. DNA evidence from skeletal remains dating to after the contact showed the two occasionally interbred as well. As a result, today, about 1-4% of the genome of individuals with Eurasian ancestry – i.e. Europeans, East Asians, Indians, Native Americans, and Oceanians – represents Neanderthal-derived DNA sequences. The lactase gene of East Asians was one such segment. On the other hand, those of African descent have close to 0% Neanderthal-derived sequences.

Studies found evidence of pre-agricultural selection pressures beginning 30,000 years ago. The East Asian genomes began evolving towards lactase persistence several millennia before these populations began to domesticate livestock

About 30,000 years ago the Neanderthals went extinct for reasons that are still not clear.

Bones to pick

Experts can distinguish Neanderthal skeletal remains from those of modern humans by the shape of the skull, inner ear bones, and pelvis width. Neanderthal bones have yielded DNA, which scientists have sequenced and compared with that of *H. sapiens*.

Two random humans share about 99.9% of their DNA sequence whereas humans and Neanderthals shared only about 99.7%. Thus, there are about 9.6 million points of difference between Neanderthal and human DNA sequences, in terms of the bases the DNA is made of. Based on these differences, if a DNA sequence is sufficiently long, one can tell whether it is from humans or Neanderthals.

The Allen Ancient DNA Resource (AADR) is a curated database of more than 10,000 genome sequences from the skeletal remains of ancient individuals who lived up to 20,000 years ago. The researchers who put this resource together have also identified, on every genome, more than a million sites where the DNA has been known to exhibit a different ordering of bases than "normal."

About 67% of the ancient DNA sequences in AADR are from remains recovered in Europe and Russia, some 8% each are from East Asia and the Near East, about 7% are from the Americas, about 5% are from South and Central Asia, about 3% from Africa, and about 2% from Oceania.

A story upended

The researchers behind the new study searched AADR and found one modern human who lived around 14,000 years ago in the Amur area of China. This individual carried the Neanderthal-derived lactase gene. The gene occurred in roughly 10% of those humans who lived 8,000 to 3,000 years ago, and in about 20% of those who lived about 3,000 to 1,000 years ago. Its current frequency among East Asians is 28.9%.

Thus, the AADR data also supported the inference made from the population genetic analyses: that the lactase gene had already experienced selection and had reached a (relatively) high frequency among East Asians long before they began to domesticate animals.

Thus either the selection in East Asians, unlike that in Africans and North Europeans, was for reasons other than lactase persistence, or in all three geographies the selection was similarly not for lactase persistence.

Either way in the light of these findings the classic story of gene-culture coevolution has become more complicated and hence, as the researchers note, more interesting.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

The exercise yielded 1,21,739 pieces of trash, of which 1,06,857 were plastic, mostly single-use. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Single-use food packaging 84% of Himalayan plastic waste

Rahul Karmakar

Single-use food and beverage packaging forms more than 84% of the plastic waste in the eco-sensitive Himalayan region, an anti-waste collective of NGOs has found.

According to the Zero Waste Himalaya Alliance, about 70% of the plastics collected from across the Himalayan belt from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh are non-recyclable and have no market value.

The gravity of the environmental reality came to light at the Zero Waste Himalaya Network Meet held in Himachal Pradesh's Bir in April, where the constituents of the alliance lamented the failure of the current policies in addressing the unique challenges of mountain ecosystems.

The alliance was initiated by Zero Waste Himalaya, an organisation based in Sikkim's Gangtok, and the Integrated Mountain Initiative based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

The two organisations have been spearheading The Himalayan Cleanup (THC), one of the biggest movements against plastic pollution in the Indian Himalayan region, since 2018. The Bir convergence of anti-plastic groups was held a month before their annual plastic waste collection from May 26-30.

A statement issued by the alliance on May 8 said, "Over the past six years, the data has indicated that the Himalayan waste crisis is fundamentally a production and systems issue rather than a post-consumer waste management flaw."

A report released by THC said the 2018 waste collection exercise was conducted at more than 250 sites by volunteers of 200 organisations. In 2024, more than 15,000 members of 350 organisations collected plastic waste from 450 locations.

71% of the plastic waste was non-recyclable, mainly, multilayered plastics and tetrapak. These are not collected by waste pickers and are found littering mountains, choking waterways and filling up landfills

Among the nine Himalayan States targeted in 2025, Sikkim generated the most trash items. A total of 53,814 (44% of the total) pieces of litter were audited across 86 sites. This was followed by West Bengal's Darjeeling with 36,180 items audited across 37 sites.

The volunteers in Ladakh picked up and audited 11,958 pieces of trash across 18 sites. Nagaland and Uttarakhand followed Ladakh to take the fourth and fifth spots.

The exercise across the nine States yielded 1,21,739 pieces of trash, of which 1,06,857 were plastic, mostly single-use, divided into six categories: food packaging, household products, personal care products, smoking material, packing material, and others.

The report said 84.2% of the plastic waste was found to be food and beverage packaging. These packages have been audited to gather data on the top corporate polluters in the Himalayan belt.

"Within food packaging, 71% of the plastic waste was non-recyclable. THC2022 and THC2023 showed 72% and 77.4% of all plastic collected was non-recyclable, mainly, multilayered plastics and tetrapak... These problematic plastics are not collected by any waste pickers and scrap dealers and are found littering mountain landscapes, choking waterways and filling up landfill sites," it said.

"Thus, there is a need to look at solutions beyond the recycling lens," it added.

The THC2024 was conducted across villages, schools, tourist spots, and protected areas. Water bodies and rivers were the most littered in the tourist spots.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Mars is more than just the red planet

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

The earth has blue skies during the day and red-orange sunsets whereas Mars has red-orange skies during the day and blue sunsets. This is because Rayleigh scattering dominates on the earth whereas X dominates on Mars. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Mars doesn't have a global magnetic field today but scientists believe it did in the past. The evidence is in the form of the imprint of an ancient magnetic field recorded in _____ _____ available to study on the earth, such as ALH84001. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Because Mars has no water on its surface, it has no ___ _____. Scientists adjusted by adopting an imaginary surface called the areoid as the reference surface on the planet. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

One of the features of the areoid (from Q3) is that the atmospheric pressure at this surface is only 610.5 pascal, which allows water to exist in its _____ _____: i.e. when its solid, liquid, and gas phases can coexist (depending on temperature). Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

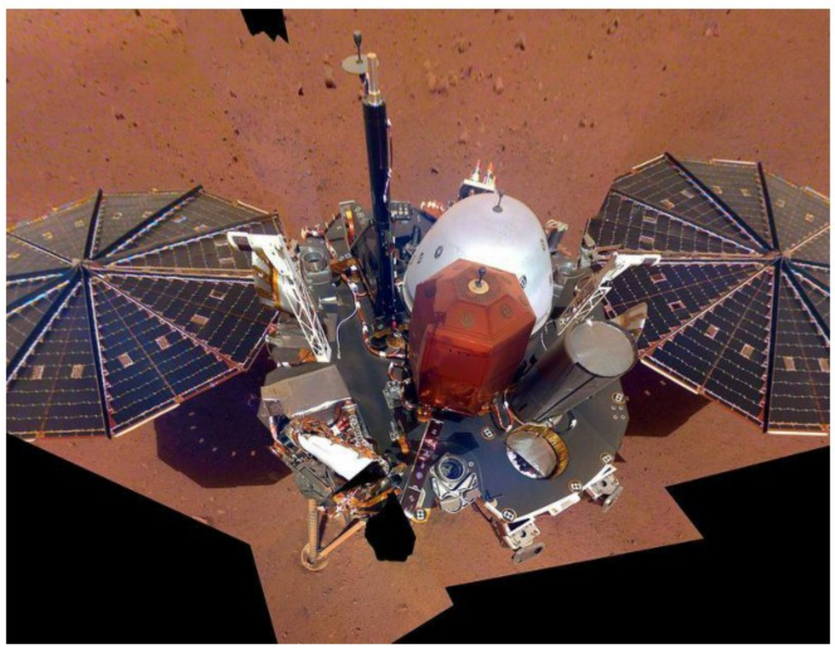
Scientists are not clear where Mars's moons came from, although their similarity to certain asteroids suggests Mars captured them from the asteroid belt. Name the moons.

Answers to May 8 quiz:

1. Substance whose gradient guides cells within tissue – **Ans: Morphogen**
2. Point across which gradient drops and along which it increases – **Ans: Saddle**
3. Classic symptom of a gradient catastrophe – **Ans: Shock wave**
4. Water circulation driven by temperature gradient – **Ans: Thermohaline**
5. Optimisation algorithm proposed in 1847 – **Ans: Gradient descent**

Visual: **Andre Geim**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Priyanka Jarolia | Joe V.R.



Visual: Name this NASA mission that definitively recorded the first quakes on Mars as well as seismic waves in a layer 5.4 km below Mars's surface. NASA/JPL-CALTECH

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Seat-blocking scam: Minister seeks report on possible role of colleges

On fee revision, he says Education Department will revise the skill fees fixed for each of the engineering colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar expressed dissatisfaction over the Bengaluru City Police probe into the alleged engineering seat-blocking scam. "The city police arrested a few individuals, all of whom are out on bail. But the investigation has not indicated the possible role of the private engineering colleges where seats were blocked and named in the scam," he said.

Misusing the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of candidates applying for government quota engineering seats in private colleges, miscreants blocked more than 2,000 engineering seats for 2024-25. Based on a complaint by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), a FIR was registered on November 14, 2024. BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute of Engineering and Technology, and New Horizon College of Engineering, were named in the FIR as the alleged beneficiaries of the scam. However, the police arrested 10 people, including a contractual employee of the KEA, for their alleged involvement. The colleges haven't been probed, sources said.

M. C. Sudhakar

"We will take up this issue with the Bengaluru City Commissioner of Police. We want to know why the investigating authorities are not able to give a report on the role of the colleges. We will ask for a detailed report on the scam. We need to know where the link ends in the alleged seat-blocking scam, as this will be key to plug gaps and ensure it doesn't recur this year, as the seat allotment for the current year will commence soon," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Of the colleges where these seats were allegedly blocked, only BMS College of Engineering has written to the government giving an undertaking that no seats were filled at their college through alleged "seat-blocking" and none of the other colleges named in the scam have even denied allegations in writing, the Minister said.

A senior city police official said that a chargesheet was filed in the case "based on the merits of the case" and officials were briefed on the findings of the probe. "If the Minister needs a detailed report, we will provide one," he said.

Fee revision next year

For the KCET of 2026-27 the Higher Education Department will revise the skill fees fixed for each of the engineering colleges, the Minister announced.

"The previous government allowed engineering colleges to charge an additional fee for various skill-based training programmes. The current fees range between ₹5,000 to ₹20,000. This policy is set to be revised next year. The government will assess what training each college is offering and then re-evaluate the fee structure. Some colleges are charging students for newly introduced training modules, prompting a review," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Seat allotment

COMED-K has agreed to begin its engineering seat allotment process only after the completion of KEA's first round of allotment, the Minister said. "Additionally, the government is considering reducing the fees for unfilled engineering seats in government and aided colleges. A final decision will be made after reviewing which courses and colleges have low enrolment rates," he said.

Dalit youth stopped from entering temple in Tumakuru district

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension gripped Kavanadala village in Madhugiri taluk of Tumakuru district on Saturday when a dalit youth was stopped from entering a temple and was allegedly humiliated in public when he objected to the temple committee's move. The district administration intervened, booked temple committee members, held a peace meeting in the village and ensured Dalits are allowed into the temples in the village.

The victim had a heated argument with those who blocked his entry into the temple and the video of the incident went viral creating tension among both the communities. The victim later approached the jurisdictional Badavanahalli Police Station and lodged a complaint, prompting officials from the Police, Revenue, and Social Welfare Departments to visit the village.

Stern warning

After stern warning to the temple committee that restricting anyone from visiting the temple amounts to caste discrimination warranting penal action, the youth was allowed to enter the temple.

According to the police, the victim Swaminatha, who belonged to a neighbouring village had come visiting his relative in Kavanadala village and entered the Ramanjaneya temple to perform puja. On entering he was stopped by one Shivananda, asking him to stay outside, as members of his community were not allowed inside the temple for ages and the local villagers follow it.

Taking strong objection to this, Swaminatha cited his rights in the Constitution of India and heated arguments ensued. Soon other villagers joined in, humiliated Swaminatha with caste slurs and forced him to stay out, following which he lodged a complaint with the local police.

Ashok K.V., Superintendent of Police, Tumakuru district, said that though the issue was resolved amicably at a peace meeting convened by government officials, investigation into the case of caste discrimination will continue and suitable legal action would be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAY. 13	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 19:17	SET 06:02
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 14	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 20:10	SET 06:47
THURSDAY, MAY. 15	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:38
RISE 21:04	SET 07:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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'Greater Bengaluru' will come into existence in a few days; use helpline to report garbage dumping: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who inspected several ongoing civic works in the city and laid foundation for many on Monday, said "Greater Bengaluru" will come into existence over the next two-three days and that will be the beginning of several reforms in the city. The Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 is set to come into force from May 15.

"A major cleanliness campaign will follow immediately after Greater Bengaluru is established. Citizens will be able to report garbage dumping via a helpline, and the municipality will ensure quick response," he said. This is part of a broader goal to create a "Clean Bengaluru" by combating illegal garbage disposal mafias and streamlining waste management.

He further said that following the recent High Court of Karnataka order that has allowed the government to call new tenders for waste disposal within four months, new tenders for Integrated Waste Management will be called soon. "We have found evidence of a few people sitting in one house and submitting multiple tenders. They even complained to the opposition. Even now, they are trying to employ different strategies. But we are committed to clean governance and building a cleaner Bengaluru," he said.

White Topping work on Mosque Road in Bengaluru on Monday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Later in the day, during a site inspection of white-topping road works in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar emphasised quality and durability. "The white topped roads must last at least 30 years. I inspect works randomly, not just at locations chosen by officials. I get down at the locations I choose, and personally examine the quality. During today's inspection, I noticed that the road thickness is just half a foot and asked officials to rectify the same," he said.

With monsoon season approaching, he stressed preparedness, assuring citizens that both officials and Ministers are on alert to prevent flood-like situations. He acknowledged that progress won't come overnight but assured that changes will occur phase by phase–through tunnels, underpasses, and better connectivity.

This is part of a broader goal to create a 'Clean Bengaluru' by combating illegal garbage disposal mafias and streamlining waste management

₹1,100 crore funds

Speaking at a foundation-laying event for a 4 MLD (million litres per day) capacity water treatment plant in Pulikeshinagar Assembly constituency, Mr. Shivakumar announced an investment of over ₹1,100 crore in the constituency for roads, flyovers, and ward development, alongside digital property documentation services delivered to citizens' doorsteps.

No extension of metro services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the postponement of IPL matches Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) will not be extending metro services until 1.30 a.m. on Tuesday and Saturday on both the Purple and Green lines. Instead, metro train operations will follow the regular schedule on both lines.

'RTC officials will be held accountable'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that as a measure to curb the increasing number of accidents involving Road Transport Corporation (RTC) buses, "technical department officials, divisional controllers and the concerned unit managers will be held responsible for accidents caused due to technical problems".

He was speaking after issuing appointment orders to 2286 Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) operators on Monday.

Drive with caution

Recalling, providing a relief of ₹25 lakh to a driver who lost his leg in an accident he said, that he realised that no money could bring his happy life back. He advised the drivers to drive with more patience, caution and responsibility.

"In some cases, the condition of the buses/technical faults may be the reason for the accident . The carelessness and negligence of the officers and supervisory staff is the reason. From now on, instead of the driving staff, the technical department officials, divisional controllers and the concerned unit managers will be held responsible for technical problems," he said.

THE HINDU
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Work in tandem to improve power infrastructure in State: KASSIA to agencies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trade body Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) has urged all agencies allied to the power sector to work together to strengthen the overall power infrastructure scenario of the State.

To strengthen

KASSIA, president, M.G. Rajagopal said the power distribution agencies and apex body including Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation, all electricity supply companies (ESCOMS) in the State and Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission should work in tandem to improve the stability of power lines, upgrade transmission equipment and also strengthen the distribution system.

"The industry wants non-interrupted, quality supply of power for which the State should strengthen its power infrastructure including power lines, transmission equipment and also distribution system," said Mr. Rajagopal at an interactive session organised by KASSIA here on Monday for power industry stakeholders.

P. Ravikumar, IAS., Chairman, KERC and Jawaid Akhtar, IAS, Member, KERC interacted with the members and took note of the issues raised by the participants during the meeting and assured to resolve the issues that come within the purview of KERC Regulations.

Speaking on the occasion, S.M. Hussain, Energy Panel Chairman at KASSIA also stressed the importance of increased coordination between KPTCL & ESCOMs.

B-SMILE to start with ₹7,000 crore financial commitment from State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), a dedicated special-purpose vehicle (SPV) to execute big ticket infrastructure projects in the city, will have an initial financial commitment of ₹7,000 crore from the State government, but is authorised to attract private investment as well. This dual approach is designed to enable greater flexibility and resource mobilisation for large-scale urban infrastructure projects, sources said.

However, the company will be fully owned by the State. According to the Memorandum of Association, the Government of Karnataka will hold a 90% equity stake in the company, while BBMP will retain the remaining 10%.

B-SMILE will be governed by an 11-member board, led by a full-time Chief Executive Officer, who is an IAS officer. The board will include the Mayor of Bengaluru, the Commissioners of the Bangalore Development Authority and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the Engineer-in-Chief of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and three experts from the private sector. This blend of public officials and domain specialists is expected to lend both administrative strength and technical expertise to the organisation.

The board is expected to be further revamped after the implementation of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024 and when the present BBMP is split into multiple corporations. In that scenario, B-SMILE is expected to be tasked with most pan-city projects that cut across the jurisdictions of multiple corporations, sources said.

One of the first major tasks before B-SMILE will be to oversee the construction of 40 km of tunnel roads under the city, which is part of a larger blueprint to decongest surface traffic.

In addition, the company will be responsible for implementing a city-wide network of flyovers and underpasses, building new roads along the buffer zones of stormwater drains and developing an iconic 250-metre high skydeck, all ventures are closely associated with Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

With B-SMILE takes charge of big infrastructure projects, the corporation/s will continue to manage routine urban maintenance, such as pothole repairs and minor roadworks. According to senior officials, this bifurcation of responsibilities will allow B-SMILE to focus solely on long-term planning and its execution, while the corporation/s remains engaged with day-to-day civic operations.

B-SMILE and its tasks

B-SMILE will oversee the implementation of several ambitious infrastructure projects, including

- Construction of 40 km of tunnel roads beneath the city
- Development of an integrated network of flyovers and underpasses
- Road development along rajakaluves (storm-water drains)
- The creation of a 250-metre skydeck as a new city landmark

Governance of B-SMILE will lie with an 11-member board, comprising

- A full-time Chief Executive Officer (an IAS officer)
- The Mayor of Bengaluru
- Commissioners of the Bangalore Development Authority and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board
- Engineer-in-Chief of BBMP
- Three private sector experts from infrastructure and urban development sectors

WAREHOUSE SPACE AVAILABLE ON LEASE
AT 34 KM LUCKNOW-KANPUR HIGHWAY (NH-27)
SRI RAM MURTI CONSTRUCTION PVT LTD

TOTAL BUILT-UP AREA
11,700 sqmt (1,26,000 sqft) approx | 3 warehouses of 3,900 sqmt (42,000 sqft) each
TOTAL LAND
5.35 acres (21,550 sqmt) 2,32,000 sqft approx
BUILDING CENTER HEIGHT
13m (42.62 ft)
FACILITIES
24 hour water supply | 24 hour electricity with generator backup | Driver accommodation | Toilets | Parking for vehicle inside the campus

Newly built warehouse. Building is a PEB structure with wall upto 1,100 mm height and cladding above.
Address: 34 Km milestone, Lucknow-Kanpur highway (NH-27), Kusheri, Post Asha Khera, Unnao (U.P.) 209859
Phone no: 9458707809, 6393751201 Email id: shilpi.jaiswal@srms.ac.in

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of criminals 'neutralised' by U.P. govt. in eight years

230 Over past eight years, the Uttar Pradesh government has "crushed" organised crime, with 230 criminals "neutralised", and dismantled terrorist sleeper cells, a statement said. The government had adopted a zero-tolerance approach, the statement said. PTI

People from Telangana who reached Delhi from the border States

162 As many as 162 people from Telangana living in the border States have reached the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi. This includes 56 individuals from various institutions in Jammu and Kashmir and 106 from Punjab. A total of 130 people have departed to their hometowns. PTI

India's sugar exports till the month of April this year

4.24 In lakh tonnes. India exported 4.24 lakh tonnes of sugar till April of the ongoing 2024-25 marketing year, trade body AISTA said on Monday. Of the total exports undertaken so far, maximum shipments have been to Somalia at 92,758 tonnes. PTI

Airports reopened in India after ceasefire with Pakistan

32 India reopened 32 airports on Monday following a weekend ceasefire that ended the worst fighting with neighbouring Pakistan since 1999. The Airport Authority of India said the 32 airports — from Srinagar in Kashmir to Bhuj in Gujarat —were available for civil operations "with immediate effect". AFP

The increase in tourist influx in Goa from January-March

10.5 In per cent. The State registered arrival of 28,51,554 visitors in the period as against 25,80,155 travellers during the corresponding period of 2024. This growth is due to a three-pronged strategy by Goa's tourism department. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How is shipping industry tackling emissions?

What was decided at the 83rd session of the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee? Was the U.S. a participant in the discussions? How have oil-exporting nations and traditional maritime powerhouses responded to the decision? How has India positioned itself?

EXPLAINER

Amitabh Kumar

The story so far:

After a decade of deliberations towards decarbonising the maritime industry, at its 83rd session, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC-83) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was faced with the challenge of coming to a consensus on a proposed emissions levy on global shipping. The session's objective was to adopt a Market-Based Measure (MBM) that balanced environmental effectiveness with economic fairness.

What were the proposals?

Five distinct proposals were tabled in the meeting. The first was by the International Chamber of Shipping which advocated for a fixed levy per every tonne of CO_2 emitted. Secondly, China proposed a market-driven approach where ships could trade compliance units and invest in alternative fuels. The European Union suggested a fixed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) levy, managed by an IMO-administered fund while India propositioned a 'bridging mechanism', which would target only under-compliant ships to bear the financial burden, while rewarding those using Zero or Near-Zero (ZNZ) fuels. Finally, Singapore also joined the fray by proposing an enhanced version of India's model, involving a GHG Fuel Standard (GFS) and a tiered system rewarding surplus emission units and requiring the purchase of remedial units for underperformance.

Even before the debate on MBMs could fully unfold in the IMO, geopolitical tensions took centre-stage. The U.S. Trump administration, which had already withdrawn from the Paris Agreement and stripped the agency that responds to disasters from their climate work related responsibilities, did not participate in the IMO deliberations. It warned of "reciprocal measures" if the EU-backed uniform carbon levy were passed.

What was decided?

The MPEC-83 of IMO voted 63 to 16 in favour of accepting Singapore's hybrid model based on India's proposal as the IMO's Net Zero Framework, making international shipping the first global industry to adopt a mandatory emissions levy framework. Having piloted a compromise formula amidst extremely divergent views, both India and Singapore have claimed credit for the successful outcome.

However, the decision of the MEPC-83 is not final yet. Despite the vote, the path to implementation is far from straightforward. The MEPC-83's decision, having approved the Net Zero Framework, now needs to amend Annex VI of the MARPOL convention, which governs air pollution from ships. The amendment will undergo a six-month circulation period among all contracting parties to MARPOL. For final adoption, it requires a two-thirds majority of votes from members present and voting; this means that if all 101 parties participate, at least 67 must support the measure. Even if adopted, the amendment could still be blocked, should one-third of the parties – provided they account for at least 50% of global shipping tonnage – formally object in writing.

Currently, with 63 votes in favour, 16 against, and 22 abstentions, the outcome remains uncertain. The process ahead is critical and could reshape the dynamics of global shipping regulation for decades to come.

Heavily polluting: A container ship approaches the port of Santos in Brazil, on April 1. AP

What other interests were at play?

The wide range of positions expressed during the MEPC-83 underscores the enduring dominance of national interests in global climate diplomacy. Oil-exporting countries, led by Saudi Arabia, opposed any significant transition to green fuels, prioritising the protection of their fossil fuel markets. In contrast, small island nations and least developed countries advocated for steep carbon levies, seeking to redirect revenues into broader green development initiatives.

Moreover, China, along with other large shipping nations, pushed for minimal levies to preserve competitiveness while focusing on investments in cleaner fuels. Norway and other Scandinavian countries have been seeking recognition for their early and costly efforts in decarbonising shipping, proposing that these efforts be rewarded through surplus credit systems. Brazil has been advocating for a rapid shift to methanol as a primary marine fuel, while several nations, citing a lack of viable green technologies, hoped for delayed implementation.

Even after voting, scepticism has lingered among shipowners in traditional maritime powerhouses like Greece, who question the necessity and feasibility of a green levy altogether. The range of these responses illustrates the immense challenge the IMO faces in crafting a universally acceptable emissions framework.

Why does green shipping matter?

Shipping may seem invisible to most consumers, but it plays an outsized role in global emissions. The sector emits approximately one billion metric tonnes of GHG each year, representing about 2.8% of total global emissions. If ranked as a country, international shipping would be the sixth-largest emitter in the world, between Germany and Japan. Projections indicate that, without corrective action, emissions from shipping could rise by as much as 50 to 250% by 2050. Even though the sector contributes less than road transport emissions, they face heavier regulatory pressure because of their international nature.

Therefore, to align with the 13th UN Sustainable Development Goal as well as the Paris Agreement, the IMO began implementing emissions-reduction measures in 2011, followed by the Initial GHG Strategy in 2018 and the updated IMO GHG Strategy in 2023. It has also included a technical measure such as the Energy Efficiency Design Index in Annex VI of the MARPOL convention; an operational measure, the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan, for reduction of GHG emissions from ships; and introduced mandatory recording and reporting of fuel oil consumption.

Consistent with the 'Paris agreement temperature goals' it has also adopted 'levels of ambition' and 'guiding principles'. Between 2018 and 2023, it has agreed to fix a target for reducing carbon intensity (CO_2 emissions per transport work) by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 2008 levels, and by 70% by 2040, ultimately achieving net-zero by 2050. This is notably more concrete than the International Civil Aviation Organization, which has only pledged a "long-term aspirational goal" of net-zero emissions by 2050 without setting interim targets.

Is it an equitable distribution?

There has been a gradual erosion of the guiding principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' (CBDR-RC) incorporated in the 2018 initial GHG strategy. The CBDR-RC is a core principle enshrined in climate agreements like UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. It acknowledges that all nations must address climate change but recognise historical responsibility and unequal capacities. Developed nations, with their longer industrial histories, are expected to bear greater burdens. However, recent IMO proceedings reflect an effort by wealthier nations to shift responsibility onto developing economies, despite stark differences in income and consumption.

How does India benefit?

While the carbon levy and GHG targets set by the IMO may pose short-term challenges for certain sectors of the Indian economy, India is likely to emerge as a long-term beneficiary of the new MBM framework. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the impact of the MBM on India's maritime logistics costs will be modest in the near term – ranging from 4.98 to 7.29% on imports and 5.92 to 8.09% on exports by 2030. By 2050, these figures are projected to rise to about 33 to 35%. However, the actual impact on trade volumes is expected to be minimal.

India currently operates nearly 236 ships over 5,000 gross tonnage, with only 135 involved in international voyages. Since MBMs apply only to international shipping, India's coastal fleet remains unaffected. At present, India spends roughly $400 million per year on fuel for its international fleet. The MBM is projected to increase this by approximately $108 million by 2030 – a manageable rise given the scale of India's maritime economy.

Perhaps the most exciting implication of the MBM framework is the potential for India to become a global hub for clean energy exports. As the world's third-largest importer of fossil fuels, India is now investing heavily in green hydrogen through its National Hydrogen Mission. Industrial giants such as Reliance, Adani, and JSW are planning to scale up production, while three Indian ports are preparing to offer green hydrogen bunkering services.

Under the mission's guidelines, Indian green hydrogen must meet a well-to-wake greenhouse gas fuel intensity of no more than 2 kg CO_2e per kilogram of hydrogen, translating to about 16.7 grams of CO_2 equivalent per megajoule. This standard positions Indian hydrogen well within the IMO's reward thresholds, which are capped at 19.0 g CO_2e/MJ until 2034 and 14.0 g CO_2e/MJ thereafter. This alignment creates a significant opportunity for India to export green fuels globally and capitalise on international incentives.

Global shipping now stands at a transformative moment. Despite persistent disagreements and uncertain implementation pathways, the adoption of a MBM by the IMO represents a milestone in the journey toward decarbonisation. If successful, this framework could make shipping the first truly global sector to operate under binding climate goals, setting a powerful precedent for others to follow.

Amitabh Kumar, a retired IRS officer, is former Director General of Shipping, Government of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- At its 83rd session, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC-83) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was faced with the challenge of coming to a consensus on a proposed emissions levy on global shipping.
- Shipping may seem invisible to most consumers, but it plays an outsized role in global emissions. The sector emits approximately one billion metric tonnes of GHG each year, representing about 2.8% of total global emissions.
- While the carbon levy and GHG targets set by the IMO may pose short-term challenges for certain sectors of the Indian economy, India is likely to emerge as a long-term beneficiary of the new MBM framework.

Laxmi Hebbalkar

State govt. to celebrate golden jubilee of anganwadis in October

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government intends to host mega celebrations in October to mark 50 years of anganwadis in Karnataka.

"We already held a round of discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The Union Minister for Women and Child Development will also be invited. We intend to invite 1 lakh anganwadi workers to the programme," Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said during a review meeting of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programmes here on Monday.

Urging the officials and anganwadi workers to work efficiently, the Minister said that the State government has raised the honorarium of anganwadi workers and assistants by ₹1,000 in the Budget, and that the Centre has recognised 3,800 mini anganwadi centres in Karnataka, the highest in the country.

"This is because the State convinced the Centre about the need to recognise mini anganwadi centres. A committee headed by retired judge Venugopal Gowda has also praised the department's work," she said.

Directing officials to focus on starting pre-primary – LKG and UKG – classes, Ms. Hebbalkar said: "It has become a matter of prestige for the department to open pre-primary classes. The opening of LKG and UKG classes will help in the survival of the department."

The meeting reviewed starting pre-primary classes, appointing anganwadi workers and assistants, allocation and release of grants to ICDS, among others.

'Credit for military response should go to armed forces and not to any political party

Chief Minister welcomes ceasefire, but says Centre should have convened an all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament before taking a decision on it

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said the credit for India's strong military response to Pakistan should go to the armed forces, and not to any political party.

Speaking to reporters at the helipad on his arrival at H.D. Kote near Mysuru on Monday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the country's defence forces deserve credit for the military response. "No political party can claim credit for the same," he said, when reporters drew his attention to efforts reportedly being made by the BJP to take credit for the military response.

Though the Chief Minister welcomed the ceasefire between the two countries, he said the Centre should have convened an all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament before taking a decision on the ceasefire, as it was a 'serious matter'.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to reporters at the helipad at H.D. Kote on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

To a question, he said all Pakistani citizens in Karnataka have left the State, except three children, who are aged below six. Their father is a Pakistani national while the mother is an Indian. Though the children were taken to the border to be sent to Pakistan, nobody was there to take them.

He said he would await the developments at a meeting between the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both the countries that had been scheduled.

On the comparison between the 1971 war with Pakistan under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the present tension, Mr. Siddaramaiah said more than 54 years had passed since the earlier war, and the circumstances were different.

The Congress government is planning to organise celebrations to mark two years in office.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge had been informed that the celebrations will be put off in view of the escalation of conflict between India and Pakistan. The decision on ceasefire had not been taken when the State Cabinet met last time.

"Following the ceasefire, Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal will discuss the celebrations with Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge. They will then revert to the State Congress leadership," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah dodged a question on Cabinet reshuffle. When asked about a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would inform the media before carrying out the exercise.

We are torn between choosing war and embracing Buddha's ideology of peace: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

"We are at the crossroads today, torn between choosing war and embracing the Buddha's ideology of peace. When a nation's security is under threat, we must rise above caste and religion to stand united by setting aside all differences," said Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

He was addressing a gathering after offering floral tributes to the Buddha during the 2,569th Vaishakh Buddha Purnima on the outskirts of Kalaburagi city on Monday.

The veteran leader emphasised that the Constitution, democracy, and religion can survive only if the nation survives. He appealed to the people not to lose their self-confidence in this 'war-like' situation.

Recalling the recent terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Kharge said Pakistan that had lost wars to India in the past, was again provoking a conflict. India is a peace-loving country, and it always preferred the Buddha (peace) over 'yuddha' (war and conflict). "Any war brings only harm and disrupts people's lives. However, at times war becomes unavoidable because of the sheer nature of circumstances and we must accept it," Mr. Kharge said.

He praised the sacrifices of the soldiers guarding the borders and said that the country stands with every decision taken by the armed forces.

Mr. Kharge said that it was a significant day for Buddhists as it marks the Buddha's birth anniversary. He said the Buddha's ideologies and teachings have gained relevance and influence globally, while it is not spreading as widely in India.

Earlier, Bhante Dhamadutta Thera of Mahabodhi Society, Bengaluru, paid homage to the Buddha and delivered a sermon.

The gathering also observed a moment of silence for the victims of the Pahalgam attack and the sacrifices of soldiers who died in the fight against Pakistan.

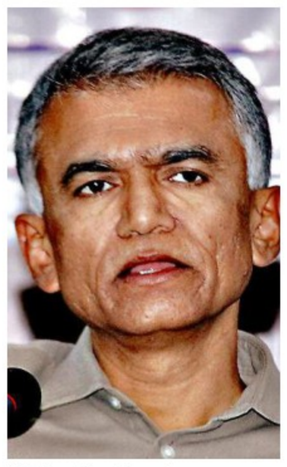
AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and his wife Radhabai Kharge paying floral tributes to the Buddha at Buddha Vihar on the outskirts of Kalaburagi on Monday. ARUN KULKARNI

Complete declaration of revenue villages before June 30: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday directed officials to declare revenue villages of those habitations that have not been done so before June 30. "The declaration of *hattis* and *tandas* as revenue villages has been pending for a long time, and efforts should be hastened to declare them as revenue villages," he told Revenue officials in Chitradurga on Monday.

The Minister said that the declaration of revenue villages should be completed within June 30 since creation of new revenue units are prohibited once the notification for general census is issued. "The prohibition can remain in place for two years," he noted.



Krishna Byre Gowda

> The declaration of *hattis* and *tandas* as revenue villages has been pending for a long time, and efforts should be hastened to declare them as revenue villages
>
> **KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA,** Revenue Minister

Referring to the provision for creating a revenue bock if more than 10 houses are located within a 1-km radius of the village, the Minister said: "We have to ensure stability for people by identifying and creating revenue villages. Get information from associations representing yadavas and *tandas*."

Mr. Gowda said that the government, which is celebrating completion of two years on May 20 at Hosapete in Vijayanagara district, will hand over 'hakku patras' (title deeds) to 1 lakh families besides distribution of several benefits. He said that facilities are being created for the beneficiary to bring one member of the family.

Norms issued for general transfer window

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Monday notified the month-long general transfer window starting on May 15 and laid down guidelines to be followed during the general transfer, not exceeding 6% of the working strength in the cadres.

The transfer of Group A and Group B will be at the discretion of the Ministers, while the decision on Group C and Group D employees will be taken by their appointing authorities.

Guidelines are for the transfer of officials against whom a department inquiry or inquiry into criminal offence is pending, those who are medically ill, among others.

Solidarity group representing Jenu Kurubas seeks withdrawal of forces from Nagarahole

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Representatives of a solidarity group met the Karnataka Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the PCCF (Head of Forest Forces) on Monday and urged them to withdraw forces from Karadikallu, Nagarahole.

The representatives of over 70 social and environmental organisations, youth groups, experts, and professionals submitted a letter to the PCCF stating that the forces are threatening 150 Jenu Kuruba Adivasis with forced eviction which is in gross violation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) provisions.

"The collective submitted this letter to the PCCF in light of the recent tense situation that has been unfolding in Karadikallu Hattur Kollehaadi, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve from May 5 onwards, where over 120 paramilitary troops of the Forest Department, the State police, and the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) have been deployed to intimidate members of the Jenu Kuruba tribe, with threats to forcibly evict them," the representatives said in a statement.

It has accused the armed forces of threatening 150 Jenu Kuruba Adivasis with forced eviction

It further said that on May 5 and 6, 52 families of Karadikallu returned to reclaim their ancestral village from which they were forcibly evicted in 1982-83.

"Since then, they have been facing intimidation tactics, with paramilitary troops threatening the Jenu Kuruba members, dismantling structures, including sacred sites and temporary sites for menstruating women, blocking of access to the village by Forest Department officials, amounting to a gross infringement of constitutionally guaranteed rights under the FRA," it said.

In their letter, apart from demanding the withdrawal of STPF and other armed forces they called of initiating an immediate dialogue with members of the Nagarahole Adivasi Jammapale Hakku Sthapana Samiti (NAJHSS) and the Karadikallu FRC to address grievances and ensure democratic and participatory resolution.

"Allow free and fair media access to Nagarahole to report the situation and speak with affected community members, upholding transparency and accountability. Immediately recognise and approve the IFR, CFR, and CFRR claims of all the 52 families of Karadikallu Hattur Kollehaadi as per the FRA, based on the claims filed in 2021 and the completed joint verification," were among the other demands.

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246. Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/Engg/AP/21/2025-26 Date: 08.05.2025

Tender Notification
(Through E- Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre , Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the Construction of swimming pool at Kolar, Kolar District Karnataka through,

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid
1	Construction of swimming pool at Kolar, Kolar District.	Rs 452.93 Lakhs	Rs 6,79,397.00	04.06.2025 time 16.00 Hrs	05.06.2025 time 16.30 Hrs

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.
Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin) and
TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

DIPR/CP/604/AKAR/2025-26

RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED
9th floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009.
Telephone: 080-22106888/23118888
Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in E-mail: rgrhclgmtech@rediffmail.com

Tender Notification No: RGHCL 01 TECH (GEN) 10 2024 Date: 12.05.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through e-procurement from the eligible contractors. Last date of submission of bid is Date: 27.05.2025
Name of Work:-

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Post Metric Boys Hostel Building Works for Minorities at 05 Locations (G+1 Floor) in Different Taluks of Dharwad District - Package-1 (Dharwad-05) **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT26**	1790.40	17.90
2	Construction of Post Matric Boys Hostel Building Works for Minorities at 03 Locations (G+1 Floor) in Different Taluks of Dakshina Kannada & Mysore Districts - Package - 2 (Mangalore-01, Mysore-02) **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT27**	1074.24	10.74
3	Construction of Post Metric Boys & Girls Hostel Building Works for Minorities at 05 Locations (G+1 Floor) in Different Taluks of Belagavi & Bagalkote Districts - Package - 3 (Belagavi-03, Bagalkote-02) **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28**	1790.40	17.90
4	Construction of Post Metric Boys Hostel Building Works for Minorities at 05 Locations (G plus 1 Floor) in Different Taluks of Vijayanagar Chitradurga Davanagere & Bellary Districts-Package - 4 (Vijayanagar-01, Chitradurga-02, Davanagere-01, Bellary-01) **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29**	1790.40	17.90
5	Construction of Post Metric Boys Hostel Building Works for Minorities at 04 Locations (G plus 1 Floor) in Differnet Taluks of Kalburgi and Yadgiri Districts - Package 5 (Kalaburgi-03, Yadgiri-01) **(Fixed Price No Variation)** **Indent No: RGRHCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT30**	1432.32	14.32

further information visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, **https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
General Manager (S D)
RGHCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/SPAN/615/2025-26

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road,
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telefax : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION (through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites bids on tender basis on two cover tender procedure for the following works:

1) No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/01 Dated: 12-05-2025
Name of work: **"Providing Annual Maintenance contract (AMC) to existing 4875 Body Worn Camera's with software, live streaming, tracking and Evidence management to Bengaluru city under Bangalore City Traffic Police Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Police Division for a period of two years.". Amount put to tender : (excl. GST):** Rs. 6.64 Crores. **E M D :** Rs. 6.65 Lakhs. **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 2 years.

2) No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/02 Dated: 12-05-2025
Name of work: **"Providing Comprehensive Maintenance services to the existing 537 Nos. of Solar Blinkers for 3 years in Bengaluru city under Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Police". Amount put to tender : (excl. GST):** Rs. 1.07 Crores. **E M D :** Rs. 1.08 Lakhs. **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 36 months for maintenance.

3) No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/03 Dated: 12-05-2025
Name of work: **"Providing Comprehensive Maintenance services to the existing 39 Nos. of Pelican Signal Lights for 3 years in Bengaluru city under Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Police". Amount put to tender : (excl. GST):** Rs. 0.68 Crore. **E M D :** Rs. 0.68 Lakh. **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 36 months for maintenance.

Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal documents from GoK KPP portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in (a)** Last date for submission of bids through KPP portal: **06.06.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs. (b)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **09.06.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.**

*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes if any, will be updated only on KPP Portal / KRDCL website : **https://www.krdcl.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
KRDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/621/2025-26

KEYWORD

On differences in clientelism, patronage and freebies

In most political commentaries, there is a tendency to conflate these different phenomena, since there are some overlaps between these practices. However, such conflation leads to overlooking harmful relationships

Sarthak Bagchi

In recent times, a lot of scholarship has emerged espousing a call to end the politics of patronage and clientelism, advocating a move away from the politics of distribution of 'freebies' and calling an end to the use of populist schemes. The opposition to populist schemes has been mostly advanced as an academic argument by both economists and political scientists as such redistributive practices are seen as negatively affecting the political culture of a polity, enfeebling the democratic credentials of voters and making them dependent on the distribution of such largesse.

However, we often see that in such commentaries there is a tendency to conflate many different phenomena, since there are some overlaps between these practices. This article will highlight some subtle yet important differences between clientelism, patronage and 'freebie' distribution.

Collective good: A large number of women wait to travel on BMTC buses, one year after the launch of free bus travel, in Bengaluru on June 5, 2024. MURALI KUMAR K

On clientelism

Clientelism or clientelistic politics is defined typically as a kind of reciprocal exchange in which politicians offer or promise to offer certain tangible material benefits to voters based on the offer or promise of their electoral support. This reciprocal relationship, between those who can deliver the resources and those who can give support in return for these resources has been the focal point of many studies in political science, anthropology and sociology. The delivery or selective distribution of resources in clientelism is contingent on the continuance or expectation of electoral support in terms of voting and/ or campaign participation. This reciprocity factor means that while politicians are offering gifts, money or other distributive largesse to their supporters, they too in return, must be able to monitor the voting action of their supporters and ensure that the supporter who is receiving this benefit is also returning the 'favour' by voting in support of the politician. Politicians ensure this reciprocity by monitoring the compliance of their supporters. Such monitoring is often done by dense networks of local level leaders, political brokers or *karyakartas* (party workers). An important distinction between a clientelistic exchange and any other type of distributive politics is the threat of retribution on non-compliance of reciprocity.

Clientelistic relationships or patron-client ties are typically asymmetrical in nature, in which politicians as patrons and voters as clients are linked through bonds of hierarchy, caste-identity or resources, or both. As the Indian polity has undergone democratic upsurges that have levelled some hierarchies of caste and made democratic politics more representative, the asymmetry of resources has only increased, as the wealth of India's politicians has increased manifold as compared to their voters. So, it is quite possible that a wealthy politician will be in a position to punish a poor voter for not voting for him/her.

However, we don't usually see such situations. This is in part due to the robustness of India's secret ballot system which enables voters to believe that their voting action cannot be monitored efficiently by politicians. Voters therefore do not feel compelled or forced to vote for the politician from whom they receive a gift or money, and instead tend to take gifts across parties (even demand in some cases, as our fieldwork shows). Another factor affecting the ability of politicians to monitor the compliance of their supporters is a decline and lack of dense networks of party activists, that are typically found in political machine models populating the favellas of Rio De Janeiro or the slums of Buenos Aires.

In India, a high voting population and large constituency size restricts a politician's ability to implement effective monitoring strategies to check the voting actions of their voters. These limitations are only multiplied with an increasing democratic culture imbibed by voters through repeated participation in elections, which has been captured as a deepening of democracy in the Indian context. To put it simply, clientelism in the Indian context, operates in an atypical manner, in which neither are voters suppressed clients who are compromising their autonomy of voting choice nor are patrons or politicians able to punish their voters for their non-compliance, even if there exists a hierarchy of resources between the two.

Patronage networks and freebies

Another manner in which this hierarchy of unequal resources is manifested is through patronage networks, which allow politicians to disburse resources of a permanent nature, such as jobs, loans or subsidies, to cultivate electoral loyalty among their supporters. While clientelistic exchanges takes place in the immediate proximity of elections and usually involves the exchange of tangible material benefits like money, liquor, food, gifts, clothes, phones etc., patronage ties are more long-standing relationships, in which the interaction between the distributing politician and the receiving voter is more recurring and reiterative. Patronage ties are usually not one-time exchanges between politicians and voters.

Freebies can be classified as universally distributed goods, which are not selectively distributed based on individual targeting (whether a person has voted for me or not, or will vote for me or not). The distributive criteria for freebies is more inclusive than in clientelism. Freebies are typically distributed to an entire population group or a class of voters like women, or female children above the age of 15 or men under the age of 30. The idea is to expand the scope of distribution on a large scale, by defining the contours of that scale very clearly, in order to justify the distribution. Theoretically, freebies do not carry any reciprocity condition or retribution, though there is always a hope of garnering electoral support. But, such hope can be embedded in each and every action taken by a politician and not just in shaping schemes of universal distribution. Moreover, the distribution of freebies does not necessarily need to be monitored by political agents to check reciprocal compliance by recipients. In fact, by the introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and increased usage of banking channels for such distribution, the role of party brokers and *karyakartas* in mediating such welfare schemes is waning. Goods distributed through such universal distribution schemes or what political scientist James Manor has called, post-clientelistic schemes, can also bring important transformations at the household level as well as the societal level.

Some 'freebies' like free bus rides for women in Delhi and Karnataka or free bicycles for female school going children in Bihar and West Bengal can have positive effects on women's participation in the work force and education by increasing school enrolment numbers as research has shown. DBT cash transfers to women's bank accounts could also have positive effects on household spending patterns, although longitudinal data for such schemes is yet to come.

In such a scenario in which universal distributive schemes are not mediated or monitored (or at least less monitored) through political workers, and do not bring along any retributive clauses based on reciprocity in terms of electoral support, a criticism of freebies as undemocratic or violating the voters' right to vote freely or promoting the suppression of voters is not a fair criticism.

More scrutiny on clientelistic networks

Politicians taking part in India's highly competitive electoral market are distributing a lot of resources besides what are called 'freebies'. Much of the spending in India's exorbitant election campaigns are done via politician's private resources which are often mobilised to pay for hiring campaign teams, loudspeakers, stages, vehicles and transportations for mega rallies, publicity and social media advertisements, political consultants and on distributing tangible material benefits like gifts, money or liquor – in short on actual clientelistic distribution, that is largely informal in nature and therefore undocumented.

Formal distribution in the form of freebies are much open for audits and therefore also open for restructuring and subsequent reforms at a later stage. However, conflating these practices often leads to overlooking informal clientelistic transfers which need more researched focus to capture their long-term impact on democracy and economy. Focusing the criticism on universal distributive schemes which are more inclusive in their distributive criteria and have shown positive affects in the long-term, instead of looking at actual clientelistic practices that are exclusionary in nature and undermine the quality of democracy, is therefore akin to missing the woods for the trees.

Sarthak Bagchi teaches courses on Indian politics and populism in Ahmedabad University and studies politics of clientelism and patronage in Bihar and Maharashtra.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Is 'crow-catching' used in British English?"

"No. It is an Indian expression. A Tamil scholar recently told me that it is from Tamil, '*Kakkai pidithal*,' which is a corruption of Kal (leg) Kai (hand) massaging. *Kal Kai pidithal* has become *Kakkai pidithal*. When you massage the feet and hands of a person, you do this to please him to get some favour from him. It is believed that "crow-catching" is a translation of Tamil 'Kakkai pidithal'.

In American English there is the expression 'apple polish'. This means 'crow-catching'. This expression is from the habit of American school children bringing shining apples to their teachers. In India, you massage people for a favour and in America you offer shining apples for a favour. The objective is the same but the means are different."

"What is the Wicked Bible?"

"It is so called because, believe it or not, the word 'not' was omitted by mistake in the seventh commandment making it: 'Thou shalt commit adultery.' It is also called the Adulterous Bible! This Bible was published in England in 1631."

"What are the small hours?"

"The hours from 1 am. to 4 or 5 am."

"What is the meaning of 'His fingers are all thumbs'?"

"It is said of a person who is clumsy with his hands."

"What is the origin of the word 'secretary'?"

"A 'secretary' is one who keeps the secrets of his/her employer. The word is from Latin, 'secretarius' 'one who keeps secrets.'

Shall we call on Jayasree?"

"I am afraid she is not in town."

"Why should you be afraid? She is a nice person."

" 'Afraid' in this context means, 'I am sorry to say...'. It is used to 'express politely a piece of information that may be unwelcome'. 'Afraid' here doesn't mean 'frightened'. "Have you any butter?" "I am afraid not". 'Afraid' is used to say 'no' in a polite way."

"How do you pronounce 'indict' and what is its meaning?"

"The second 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'find'. The 'c' is silent. 'Indict' is a legal term meaning 'to charge'. He was indicted for murder. The stress is on the second syllable 'dict'."

"What is the pronunciation of 'blackguard'?"

"The 'c' and 'k' are silent. The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man' and the second 'a' like in 'path'."

"What is a lawman?"

"This is used in American English. A lawman is not a lawyer. He is a sheriff or police officer."

"What is the difference between prophecy and prophesy?"

"Prophecy is a noun and prophesy is a verb."

"What is the origin of the word 'biscuit'?"

"It is from French bis, 'twice' and cuit, 'cooked'. It is twice-cooked or baked."

Published in The Hindu on June 18 and June 25 in 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Virat Kohli has called it a day on his Test run after sculpting a legendary career. Here is a quiz on the former Indian skipper

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Against which country did Kohli make his Test debut?

QUESTION 2
Who got Kohli out in his last Test innings?

QUESTION 3
What was unique about Kohli's first Test match as captain with respect to the batsman in him?

QUESTION 4
How many Test double centuries did Kohli score as skipper, the most by a captain?

Visual question:
Name the venue and opponents from this match were Kohli led India to victory, with a famous quote "for 60 overs, they should feel hell out there" ahead of the second innings. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The wife and son of Siddaratha Gautama. **Ans: Yasodhara and Rahula**
2. The place and age at which Gautama became the Buddha. **Ans: Bodh Gaya in Bihar at the age of 35**
3. The significance of the 'Dharmachakra Pravartana Sutra' in Buddhism. **Ans: It is considered the Buddha's first sermon**
4. The term Buddha used to refer to himself. **Ans: Tathagata**
5. The cycle of birth and rebirth according to Buddhist theology. **Ans: Samsara**
6. Two of the three 'baskets' in the Eightfold Path. **Ans: Samadhi and Panna**
7. The place where Buddha reached 'parinirvana'. **Ans: Kushinagar**
Visual: The tradition within Tibetan Buddhism that the Dalai Lama follows. **Ans: Gelugpa (Yellow Hat)**
Early Birds: Tom Alan Faith| Haridas Pal| C. Saravanan| Aaradhya Yadav| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Guffaw:
a burst of deep loud hearty laughter; laugh boisterously

Synonyms: belly laugh, laugh loudly

Usage: *As they guffawed loudly, the boss walked in.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/guffawpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /gəˈfɔː/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Exploring Bengaluru's complex relationship with its rivers

Waterscapes of Bengaluru, an exhibition currently on at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, takes visitors on a journey through the city's evolving waterscapes

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

The exhibition, which is being held at the museum, looks at Bengaluru's waterscapes, where through a series of digital interactives, the organisers hope to provide visitors with an immersive experience to help them learn the background and threats faced by the city's rivers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

We all know that Bengaluru was once known as the city of a thousand lakes, but did you also know that it was also once watered by many rivers?

From the Arkavathi, which originates in Nandi hills, to the Vrishabhavathi, which is believed to have been born in this very city and the Dakshina Pinakini traversing through the eastern ends of Bengaluru, including Chikkaballapur, Hoskote, Malur, Kadugodi, and Sarjapura, "the city once had a network of rivers and natural streams flowing through it," states a story map at Waterscapes of Bengaluru, a new exhibition jointly developed by the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) and the Paani Earth Foundation.

The exhibition, which is being held at the VITM and will include workshops, expert interactions, and demonstrations, is open till Independence Day. "As August 15 approaches, through these efforts, we hope the rivers will finally get the attention they deserve, with tangible steps taken to set them free," says Jyoti Mehra, curator at VITM, which has partnered with numerous city-based organisations, including WELL Labs, Biome Environmental Solutions, MOD Foundation, Mythic Society and Ecosattva for the initiative.

Relationship with water

Waterscapes of Bengaluru: Flows and Futures of our City's Rivers and Lakes, which takes visitors on a journey through the city's evolving waterscapes, from ancient wisdom to modern-day challenges, explores "the city's relationship with water, which has always been complex," she says. Through a series of digital interactives, games, puzzles, and hands-on water-based activities, the organisers hope to provide visitors with an immersive experience to help them learn about the background and threats faced by the city's rivers, once central to the city's ecological balance, but now heavily encroached upon and polluted.

They will also get to explore Bengaluru's ingenious network of interconnected lakes, tanks, and open wells that once captured seasonal rain and supported everyday life, but is today largely distorted due to rapid urbanisation, resulting in dependence on large-scale water supply schemes like the Cauvery project, which pumps water over 100 km uphill to reach the city, says Mehra.

According to her, the explosive growth of Bengaluru's population from 0.16 million in 1901 to over 14 million today and widespread concretisation has forced the city to draw over 50% of its water from the ground. "The struggle to balance growth with its

fragile hydrology is a constant one, which has led to people digging deeper, drawing farther, and reaching wider in search of water," she says, adding that the warning signs to the health of our water system are obvious: frothing lakes, floods, and failing borewells in the city.

While this exhibition is a stark reminder of the acuteness of the crisis, it also celebrates the revival of water wisdom, from the K-100 project to the Million Wells Campaign to lake rejuvenation projects and urban wetland protection. "These efforts are living blueprints for a future where water is co-owned, co-managed, and co-created by all."

Public sensitivity

The exhibition idea emerged rather serendipitously. Mehra was part of a panel discussion at the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) focusing on sustainability and climate change when she met Madhuri Mandava, the co-founder of the Paani Earth Foundation. That is when she first learnt about the rivers of Bengaluru; till then, the only river she had associated the city with was the Cauvery. "Once that happened, I realised that would be apt to bring the story of rivers here...present a broader perspective of the whole waterscape of Bengaluru," she says of the exhibition, which she believes is especially timely given that it is now peak summer, when the city often experiences an acute water shortage. "The moment monsoons come, people forget. So, it is a very seasonal unrest that happens," she says. "We wanted to tap into that and sensitise the public."

In her opinion, having people visit, experience this narrative and participate in various activities could be important in reviving our water bodies and managing water more sustainably. "Water is not just an environmental issue. It has a scientific basis...emotional and cultural aspect to it," says Mehra, who believes that using a mixture of artwork, mythologies, histories, maps and graphics to tell the story of water helps draw more people into its conservation. "Knowledge is spread on many platforms today, but a museum space needs to focus on the engagement aspect," she believes. "Education and sensitisation cannot happen without engagement."

Exhibition walkthrough

The exhibition uses a first-person narrative technique to tell the stories of the city's rivers. "You can imagine whatever you want, what she is feeling...something like a living being," says Mandava, who feels that structuring the narrative this way will help visitors have a personal connection with these water bodies.

Vrishabawathi river. FILE PHOTO

Another aspect of rivers, in connection to Bengaluru, that is explored is how the Cauvery is often reduced to being a source of tap water for most Bengalureans, rather than a living, breathing entity. According to an exhibit, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) spends nearly ₹3 crores daily on electricity for pumping water, making the water from Cauvery one of the most expensive sources in this country. Additionally, "the moment you have river water coming through a pipe, you don't consider that the lake or tank next door needs to be preserved," believes Mehra. "And when you ignore it, it becomes a stagnant water body, losing its vitality and ecological function," she says, a sentiment reiterated by an exhibit titled *Bengaluru's Legacy of Living Lakes*.

The exhibit, which discusses the cascading, interlinked design of lakes, many of which were developed during the reign of Kempe Gowda in the 16th century, dwells on how the city destroyed its water web and its far-reaching consequences, including frothing, fish kills, flooding and water contamination. "Many of these lakes have been converted into malls, playgrounds and bus stands, and the catchment points are all gone," says Mehra, while Mandava adds,

"We have lost the big picture. Everybody looks at a lake as an isolated water body, but one forgets that it eventually flows into the river, coming back as "food or milk for us," she reminds us, pointing out that in the Vrishabhavathi basin, for instance, farmers grow cattle fodder and baby corn. "This comes back to Bengaluru in huge amounts."

Success stories

Despite the dire situation, the exhibition offers hope, sharing details of solutions such as rainwater harvesting, recharge wells and citizen-led initiatives for lake rejuvenation. It also highlights some success stories, including the K-100 project, an initiative by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in collaboration with architect and urban expert Naresh Narasimhan of Mod Foundation, which transformed a stormwater drain into an attractive and usable public space and the revival of Aurangabad's Kham river.

"It was about bringing together different organisations' work," says Mandava, who sees the exhibition as a platform to unite all these groups. "Bengaluru is one of the luckiest cities because of its numerous citizen groups and scientific institutions," she says. "We need to figure out how to come together and look for holistic solutions."

RBANM's to celebrate Founder's Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The RBANM's institutions will get together at Sabha on May 14 to pay tribute to their founder, Dharmaratnakara Rai Bahadur Arcot Narrainsawmy Mudaliar. Narrainsawmy Mudaliar was visionary in his commitment to education with a special focus on those who were marginalised. "He established the Govindammal Girls School in 1886 during a period when women were considered to be inferior in status and unfit for public life," said a release by the institution.

This legacy has been preserved 151 years later, as the Trust he established has added two PU colleges and two Degree colleges to the list of educational institutions under its umbrella, bringing about a positive change in the lives of the less privileged, through quality education.

The RBANMs Educational Charities established in 1873, continues to hold wealth in trust for societal well being, the release further stated.

The Founder's Day will be celebrated on May 14, from 6p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Sabha, Kamaraj Road, Bengaluru.

A painter's plea for global unity through art and sport

Venkatesh Kandunoori's painting is a visual homage to a time when earth was revered as a mother

Vyas Ponnuri
BENGALURU

At a time marked by polarisation and conflict, Hyderabad-based artist Venkatesh Kandunoori has chosen canvas over commentary. His magnum opus, 'The Tears of the Womb', took six painstaking months to complete and now stands as a moving metaphor for humanity's fragmented state.

Powerful depiction

The painting depicting a woman arched in labour, birthing planet earth, is a visual homage to a time when earth was revered as a mother, says the artist.

Around this maternal symbol, the painting erupts with religious flags, references to major global conflicts, and depictions of influential world figures. A wooden gun, ominously aimed at the earth's core, serves as a brutal reminder of the destruction by man-made violence. "Divided by caste, race, countries and religions we're losing our humanity. The mother's womb – earth itself – is being destroyed. The grief it brings will be unbearable," Kandunoori said. To amplify his mission, Kandunoori has been gathering signatures from global cricketers and celebrities on his painting. So far, he has secured 185 autographs, just shy of his target of 196 – a symbolic nod to the number of recognised countries.

A 'signature collection'

His first signature came from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar.

Of the 185 signatures gathered, 30 are from Indian cricketers and the rest have been signed by players from abroad. "It shows how people from across the world are more than willing to unite for a cause. We need more of that," Kandunoori noted while thanking BCCI President Roger Binny and Rajeev Nannappaneni, CEO of Natco Pharma for helping to keep the mission alive.

He was in Bengaluru recently to collect signatures of players during the IPL matches. He also leans on a grassroots network of loyal friends. Sainath Bhodke and Lalit Gatla, his trusted companions, who travel alongside him across the country, collecting signatures and spreading his plea for unity. The artist now hopes to get football icon Lionel Messi to sign his work, which he terms will be the "golden signature."

Artist Venkatesh Kandunoori's work, 'The Tears of the Womb.' K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Of the 185 signatures gathered, 30 are from Indian cricketers and the rest have been signed by players from abroad

Venkatesh Kandunoori poses with Akash Ambani, showcasing his latest painting, a 6x6 ft work highlighting unity through diversity. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 13, 1975

Maximum Use of Capacity: Call to Engineers

Bangalore, May 12: The importance of the proper maintenance of plants for the fuller use of installed capacities either in the agricultural or the industrial sector was stressed here to-day by Mr. M.S. Pathak, Chairman, Engineers India Limited.

He was inaugurating a five-day seminar on 'principles of optimum maintenance' organised by the Indian Institution of Plant Engineers, claimed to be the first of its kind in India, the seminar is being conducted by Dr. Howard, F. Finley of the Howard Finley Corporation, Houston, Texas.

Criteria for Backwardness: KPCC Panel's Suggestion

Bangalore, May 12: The Backward Classes Committee appointed by the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee has recommended the creation of a separate directorate for backward classes with a senior officer as the head of department to take care of their problems. Also, there should be a separate cabinet rank minister for backward classes.

The eight-member committee headed by Mr. Gopinath R. Sandra, MLA, was asked to determine the criteria to be adopted for considering whether any section of citizens other than scheduled caste and scheduled tribes -- may be treated as socially and educationally backward and in accordance with those criteria to draw up a list of such backward classes.

CITYBEATS

Mystery and munchies

MAY 16
Young sleuths aged six to 12 can participate in Tiny Detectives, a treasure hunt packed with coded messages, riddles, and team puzzles. Designed by Aparna Jaishankar, this interactive adventure will finish in a celebratory snack feast.
From 5.30pm onwards at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets ₹350 on BookMyShow. Contact 96325 10126 for details.

Kodava calling

MAY 17 AND 18
A two-day pop-up by Priya Aiyappa will celebrate Kodagu's culinary legacy. Savour signature dishes such as fiery chilli pork, earthy bamboo shoot curry, and delicate coconut soufflé in an intimate setting. The menu balances bold meat specialties with vegetarian options.
At Tijouri, Radisson Blu Atria. Priced at ₹3,000. Tickets at urbanaut.app.

Blink and miss

MAY 18 TO JUNE 1
PC Sorcar (Porush) presents Indrajal, a showcase of illusions that have captivated global audiences for generations. The youngest heir to India's most popular family of magicians reinvents classic tricks with contemporary flair, blending grand illusions with artistic storytelling.
At Town Hall, for a duration of 75-minutes in English/Hindi. Tickets on BookMyShow

Hot off the hilltop

Leave the madding crowd behind and head for the hills with the Suyana group which organises getaways from the city

Diya Rose Denny

Crispy hot dosas on your plate are always a delight. Pair it with a breath taking view of the sunrise and that would be bliss. That plateful after an early morning trek is reward in itself and if that is your idea of a fun activity, Bettadmele Breakfast is a half-day trek experience that unfolds at Hulukudibetta, Doddaballapur.

Organised by Suyana, a travel group in the city, trekkers are served hot, crispy dosas with chutney, fruit, jaggery rasayana, and millet malt after the one-hour climb. Suyana was founded in 2019 by Sushma BV, an HR professional, and her husband Sunil S, an UPSC aspirant. In 2022, Sushma quit her job and now curates travel experiences with Sunil.

The couple organises a trek every weekend throughout the year in two batches – an early morning batch at 5.30, followed by a morning group at 6.30. Those who opt for the early morning trek are instructed to reach the base at Doddaballapur by 5am using their own transport, while those who opt for the morning trek are provided with transport facilities from various points in the city such as JP Nagar, Koramangala, Richmond Circle, Majestic, Mekhri Bus stop, Hebbal and Yelahanka to reach the base by 6.30am.

After a quick briefing session at the base, trek leaders guide the group to the top. Sushma says, "Our trek leaders not only ensure that participants follow the designated trail, but also keep the group engaged with fun activities."

Sushma and Sunil do not sleep the night before a trek. "We make all the food at home using fresh organic ingredients. We begin making the chutney, palya and rasayana around eleven, and complete it around two in the morning. Batter is made in the morning after the rice is soaked the previous night."

Sushma elaborates on their operations. "Our team departs at around three in the morning with these items with traditional cast iron *tawas*, portable stoves and cans. We do not use non-stick pans and these tawas are quite heavy, so we have a team of about 15 people who work every weekend, carry this up the hill. They include a research scientist from IIST, lawyers, doctors and IT professionals with a common interest in travelling and curating experiences with us."

Tips for first-time trekkers
- Smoking and alcohol are not allowed.
- Inform the organising team about any pre-existing medical conditions.
- Bring your personal medications if needed.
- Carry light snacks if required like nuts or dry fruits.
- Carry water bottles as the team will not be providing water and hydration is necessary.
- Opt for comfortable attire and avoid cotton.
- Pet faeces should be disposed in the trash bag the team provides.
- If the trek is called off due to insufficient participants, the trekking fees shall be refunded.

The team dishes out as many as 200-250 dosas atop the hill for breakfast.

Families, friends and marathon runners as well as fitness and yoga groups are regular participants of this trek experience. "The trek is both age and pet friendly," adds Sushma. "Anyone from 7 to 70 can join in as it is an easy trek of about 1,000 steps."

The initiative is also sustainable. "We ask our participants to carry their own steel or reusable plates and glasses for the trek. A trash bag is also be placed on site to discard waste. We then carry this bag back to Bengaluru and dispose it at the nearest BBMP disposal unit," says Sushma.

"As of now, we organise Bettadmele Breakfast only at Hulukudibetta in Doddaballapur, and we chose this specific peak as it's a lesser-known hill, that is not crowded with tourists. Moreover, the historic Veerabhadra Swamy and Bhadrakali temples are located at the top of the hill, which is an added incentive," she says.

Meghana Suresh from Hennur, who went on the Bettadmele Breakfast experience in March 2025 with her family that includes her eight-and 12-year-old children, says, "We used our own transport and reached the base at five in the morning after which there was a warmup session. Though we missed the sunrise view since it was cloudy, there were other points to explore once we reached the peak. The highlight of the experience was definitely the breakfast. The ragi malt shake and dosa were excellent."

Sushma says, "My husband Sunil and I started Suyana in 2019 because we wanted to curate unique travel experiences outside the routine of work. After the pandemic, we initiated more interactive experiences such as the Bettadmele Breakfast to connect people with nature and others."

The Suyana group also organises trips to Agumbe, Hampi Kallu and Kumpa Vistara as well as ones to experience the Siddhi tribe culture. While the Agumbe Vismaya package includes both exploring the rainforest, waterfalls, mud caves and local culture as well as learning about the staple food, vegetation, biodiversity, conservation of endangered flora and fauna, a trip to Hampi focuses on a historical view of the place, its architecture, culture, innovation and literature.

The cost for the Bettadmele Breakfast Experience starts at ₹1,101. For more details, contact 7406648322

Worth the view Breakfast preparations underway. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EATING OUT

Ruth Dhanaraj

The BAH, Prime Co Union City, Whitefield
Phone: 096110 81642
Hits: Mushroom karagu, Southern fried chicken
Misses: Cosy pigs
Cost for two: ₹1500

Take it easy Life is slower at The BAH. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shake it off

Has your favourite watering hole been slowly taken over by the yuppie crowd jigging to mind-numbing music that seems to have no beginning or end? If so, head to The Bah, where you will find a not-so-aged set of like-minded people nursing their drinks while old time country music gently wafts overhead.

The Bah, named after that sound of relief that escapes you when we finally sit down for the day, has a conspiratorial sloth as its mascot.

Arpita Ganesh, co-founder of The Bah, says, "I wanted a place where one could come as they were and not think twice about having to dress up, a place where the music was retro and not jarring. I wanted The Bah to be a place I would love to go at the end of the day."

True enough, The Bah's simple, minimalist decor bids you welcome, inviting you to kick off your shoes off and relax. The lighting too, sets a mellow mood.

Bar bites and small plates abound at The Bah, ranging from the ubiquitous Congress peanuts (served with the lovely addition of crumbled feta) to bruschetta platters and everything in between.

With an impressive 14 beers on tap, being parched is definitely off the cards at The Bah.

Next up, were the shotgun pork strips and mushroom karagu. Ironically, the pork strips though tasty were outdone by the modestly named mushroom patties served on a mini roti of sorts. They were quite delicious.

I would recommend the southern fried chicken whether one is a teetotaller or the tipple of your choice is as varied as they come. Crisp, bite-sized and served with chipotle sauce, the blend of spices is just right, making it a great accompaniment or standalone snack. The cosy pigs – pork sausages in puff pastry – were also quite nice. Once again, the spices and herbs used in the making of these handmade sausages were spot on.

The menu is an eclectic one with pastas, steaks and burgers sharing space with rasam, sambhar and curd rice bowls as well as the option of chicken and fish curry with rice.

However, all the yummy food aside, it was the drinks menu that won hands down. It is always heartening when your bartender-mixologist can gauge your palate, suggest and then serve to satisfaction. Mervyn Thomas behind the bar at The BAH, does just that. He elevates the classic screwdriver to a Not Just a Screwdriver with an addition of basil or thyme to add an interesting touch to Coco Bongo, a tender coconut and rum-based concoction.

Desserts are simple, tried and tested affairs – tarts, panna cotta, tiramisu, pastries and cake – but their ice cream selections are interesting. We chose the ginger pineapple and its fresh, subtle flavour did not disappoint.

FILM REVIEW

A delightful satire on food politics

Vivek MV

Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa is an age-old rhyming expression used in Karnataka, especially by school-going children. It hints at the excitement of enjoying a Sunday doing what you love – eating chicken curry in this case – after a week spent in school. Abhilash Shetty's sophomore film is charming, and a fitting addition to his *koli* (chicken) universe.

His debut, *Koli Taal* (Chicken Curry), set in the Malnad region, revolved around an elderly couple's adventure to find the missing rooster so that they can cook a delicious curry for their grandson before he departs for his town. The second movie also deals with the conflict of the missing chicken.

Sneha (Samruddhi Kundapura), an 11-year-old girl, looks forward to Sundays, not just because it is a holiday, but also because she gets to eat chicken curry, a regular item at her home on weekends. However, her heart sinks when she learns that her father has bought a bag of vegetables instead of chicken, owing to Gandhi Jayanti, as meat is not sold on that day.

The film then becomes a series of events based on the consequences of Sneha's quest to fulfil her wish of eating her favourite dish, even as all odds appear against her.

Abhilash's love for satire is apparent, and the film thrives on irony.

Sneha exposes her father's hypocrisy as he asks her to follow the rules and abstain from eating meat, even as he is desperate to consume alcohol on a dry day (sale of alcohol is prohibited on October 2 in India). A meat merchant laments how a one-day ban will cost him a loss of ₹5000, calling it the biggest attack on his business on a day when people celebrate Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence.

"Gandhi fought for freedom, but it's a pity that I don't have the freedom to do my business," says the agitated seller.

Of course, illegal traders bank on the desperate demands of consumers and make merry by selling meat at exorbitant rates.

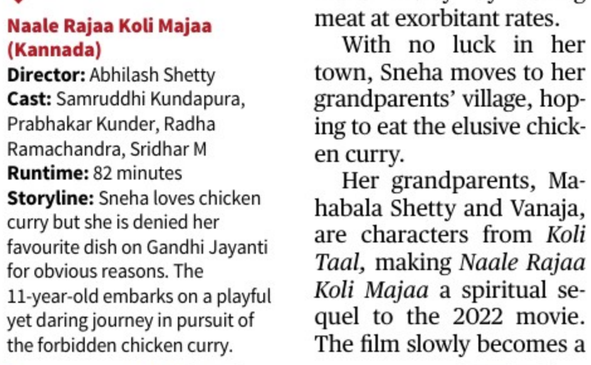
With no luck in her town, Sneha moves to her grandparents' village, hoping to eat the elusive chicken curry.

Her grandparents, Mahabala Shetty and Vanaja, are characters from *Koli Taal,* making *Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa* a spiritual sequel to the 2022 movie. The film slowly becomes a case study on different types of chicken (broiler and domestic) and the art of cooking chicken gravy. Abhilash takes his time to convey these ideas, and the intentional, leisurely pacing of the movie works in its favour.

Abhilash does not entirely romanticise village life as he portrays the class divide and patriarchal attitude of men matter-of-factly. *Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa* reflects people's behaviour influenced by food. For Sneha, chicken is a source of pleasure. However, for her mother, it becomes a tool to protect her identity. She does not allow Sneha to eat from her friend's house because she hails from a Christian family that buys meat only from certain shops.

Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa is light on its feet and balances its gentle humour with subtle socio-political commentary. The realistic portrayal of the contrasting nature of the urban and rural backdrops adds to the appeal, while Samruddhi Kundapura's performance is the film's beating heart.

Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa is currently running in theatres



Try me A scene from the movie. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Naale Rajaa Koli Majaa (Kannada)
Director: Abhilash Shetty
Cast: Samruddhi Kundapura, Prabhakar Kunder, Radha Ramachandra, Sridhar M
Runtime: 82 minutes
Storyline: Sneha loves chicken curry but she is denied her favourite dish on Gandhi Jayanti for obvious reasons. The 11-year-old embarks on a playful yet daring journey in pursuit of the forbidden chicken curry.

INBRIEF

30 from Tamil Nadu injured in bus accident in Tirupati

As many as 30 devotees suffered severe injuries in a bus accident near Agarala at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday night. According to sources, an Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) bus was coming from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu, when it lost control and hit a culvert on the Agarala Highway. The Chandragiri police immediately reached the spot. The injured, mostly children, were rushed to Ruia Hospital in Tirupati.

Nine arrested for camping in reserve forest in Seshachalam

Forest officials have taken nine persons into custody on charges of trespassing into the reserve forests of Seshachalam biosphere in Andhra Pradesh and illegally trekking, camping and cooking inside the ecologically sensitive Talakona forest. The unauthorised trek was organised by one Soma Sekar, who ran an Instagram page offering adventure trips. Forest officials said offenders may face jail terms of up to seven years and fines of ₹10,000 or more.

Erumely airport: govt. seeks to speed up land acquisition

Aimed at expediting land acquisition for the Sabarimala greenfield international airport, the authorities will soon open a special tehsildar office in Erumely or Kanjirappally in Kerala. Official sources said a special tahsildar too would be appointed for coordinating the acquisition process. An office of the general land acquisition tahsildar's under the Revenue department had already launched proceedings for a detailed survey of land.

Miss World contestants find solace at Buddhavanam

'Buddhavanam is testament to India's Buddhist heritage and its role in spreading the message of peace'

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

As the sun set over Buddhavanam in Nagarjunasagar on Monday, the fusion of beauty, culture, and spirituality brought the essence of Buddha Purnima alive as Miss World 2025 contestants from 22 countries visited the ancient site associated with Buddhism. Set against the tranquil backdrop of the Maha Stupa, the visit offered the delegates a deep cultural and spiritual immersion into Buddhist heritage.

The participants, all from the Asia-Oceania region, are among the 110 contestants currently in Telangana for the international beauty event. Representing nations including India, Vietnam, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Japan, Australia, Lebanon and others, the group engaged in interfaith prayers and rituals inspired by their Buddhist traditions.

Miss World 2025 contestants visiting Buddhavanam at Nagarjunasagar in Nalgonda district on Monday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Upon their arrival at the Buddhist theme park, the delegates were welcomed with a guided tour of the site. Dr. Shiva Nagi Reddy, an official with the Archaeology and Tourism Department, shared insights into the architectural marvels of the park. "Buddhavanam is a testament to India's ancient Buddhist heritage and its role in spreading the message of peace and compassion across the world. It is a privilege to share this rich history with the world through the Miss World pageant," he said.

Contestants explored various thematic sections of the parks, the Buddhacharitha Vanam, depicting Buddha's life; Jataka Park, with stories from his previous births; Dhyana Vanam, a zone dedicated to meditation; and Stupa Vanam, home to the grand Maha Stupa. At the Buddhist Heritage Museum, they viewed ancient relics and sculptural panels, gaining perspective on the life of the Buddha and the evolution of Buddhist thought.

Sunny Joseph assumes charge as Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Three-time MLA Sunny Joseph, who took charge as president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) here on Monday, said his focus will be on a united effort as the party prepares for two crucial elections in 2025 and 2026.

Mr. Joseph said the Congress and the United Democratic Front (UDF) will emerge victorious in the local body polls scheduled to be held later this year and the State Assembly elections in 2026.

Mr. Joseph and MP Adoor Prakash took charge, respectively, as KPCC president and UDF convener, while MP Shafi Parambil and MLAs P.C. Vishnunadh and A.P. Anil Kumar took charge as KPCC working presidents.

Sunny Joseph takes charge as KPCC chief from K. Sudhakaran.

Senior Congress leaders were among those present to witness the change of guard at a function held at the KPCC State headquarters here.

Mr. Joseph, who succeeds K. Sudhakaran as chief of the Congress' State unit, said, "People in Kerala wish to end the misrule of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government."

Mr. Prakash, who succeeds M.M. Hassan as the UDF convener, said his focus will be on "bringing everyone in the UDF together" for the 2025 and 2026 elections.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	32	22.6	22.4	Kozhikode	31	35.0	25.1
Ahmedabad	—	37.8	27.6	Kurnool	—	39.5	29.7
Aizawl	10.3	24.7	19.8	Lucknow	—	40.0	26.8
Allahabad	13	40.6	24.4	Madurai	—	41.0	26.1
Bengaluru	—	33.7	22.4	Mangaluru	2	33.8	25.6
Bhopal	—	38.4	25.8	Mumbai	—	34.6	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	40.4	27.5	Mysuru	—	34.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	38.7	23.2	New Delhi	—	38.3	24.4
Chennai	—	39.0	29.4	Patna	—	39.0	29.5
Coimbatore	—	36.6	24.8	Port Blair	—	31.6	26.5
Dehradun	—	34.6	22.2	Puducherry	—	39.2	27.7
Gangtok	36	17.6	16.0	Pune	—	38.7	26.3
Goa	—	36.0	29.0	Raipur	—	41.3	29.2
Guwahati	2	31.1	23.6	Ranchi	—	36.3	25.2
Hubballi	—	34.0	24.0	Shillong	1.2	25.0	15.0
Hyderabad	—	37.2	27.5	Shimla	—	28.2	15.0
Imphal	6	24.3	19.0	Srinagar	0.1	25.8	13.4
Jaipur	—	40.1	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	26.3
Kochi	2	32.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	39.9	27.8
Kohima	17	19.2	16.6	Vijayawada	—	41.0	27.5
Kolkata	—	40.3	29.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	87	2	95	105	
Bengaluru	21	34	50	61	73	
Chennai	13	19	53	79	68	
Delhi	9	207	72	121	117	
Hyderabad	8	71	30	72	66	
Kolkata	10	24	25	115	104	
Lucknow	8	52	62	101	120	
Mumbai	41	16	42	59	101	
Pune	—	31	43	44	71	
Visakhapatnam	14	47	37	85	119	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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A belated admission

Civil registration data from 2021 point to significant excess deaths

It has been four years since the delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus hit India. The country bore the brunt of the pandemic's devastating impact, with harrowing scenes of overwhelmed health-care systems, oxygen-supply shortages and even bodies floating in the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh. Reports based on data sourced from the Civil Registration System through RTIs and other means, by *The Hindu* in particular, besides independent surveys, showed that the toll was clearly staggering and in millions, much more than the official tally. The government's response was defensive and dismissive; the attempt was to consistently undermine the findings. After maintaining that the reported number of COVID-19 deaths during this period was accurate, the government, through the Registrar General of India, released a report last week that showed that there were 21.5 lakh excess deaths in 2021 as against 3.32 lakh reported COVID-19 deaths. During a pandemic, the bulk of these excess deaths must have been related to the effects of the disease. Besides, lockdown restrictions had resulted in lower fatalities due to causes such as road accidents. The high number of excess deaths was estimated by *The Hindu*'s calculations to be nearly 6.5 times more than the reported deaths. The fact that this multiple was even higher for Gujarat (44.2), Madhya Pradesh (19.5),Uttar Pradesh (19.5) and Telangana (18.2) suggests that COVID-19 deaths were under-reported significantly in 2021. These were largely due to the fact that deaths due to comorbidities were perhaps not considered as COVID-19 deaths or because those numbers were suppressed in order to paint a rosier picture of the government's response to the pandemic.

The nearly four-year delay in releasing this report, alongside the Sample Registration System Report for 2021, reveals the Union government's reluctance to comprehensively assess the pandemic's true impact and its casual approach to publishing critical demographic data. This reluctance in publishing timely information coincides with the fact that India's civil registration system that tracks births and deaths has become more robust over time with most States reporting the bulk of the deaths that occur, either in institutions such as hospitals or at homes. In some States, this reporting happens with a lag when compared to others, but it is encouraging that registration levels are getting better. But medical certification of the causes of the deaths still remains low when compared to other developing countries such as Brazil. A robust maintenance of registration and certification records is important for public health tools. The delay in release of vital data defeats the purpose of the improvements made in civil registration. Data delayed is also data denied.

Toxic trolling

Online threats of violence cannot be allowed in the name of free speech

A full-scale war between India and Pakistan may have been averted, but the troll army has come out in force to disturb the peace. After India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced on May 10 that an understanding had been reached between the two sides to halt all military actions, his personal account on X (formerly Twitter), was flooded with abusive comments which did not spare his daughter. Mr. Misri locked the account, and several diplomats and politicians have condemned the toxic culture in no uncertain terms, pointing out that several red lines had been crossed. Mr. Misri was only doing his job and conveying a decision taken by the political leadership. The Foreign Secretary had been addressing the media since Operation Sindoor began on May 7, in response to the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, in which 26 people died. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), which had rightly slammed Pakistan for unleashing "a full-blown disinformation offensive" on social media about the ground reality regarding Operation Sindoor, remained quiet about the vicious trolling of Mr. Misri and the doxing of his daughter. Unfortunately, with the phenomenal rise of social media in India but little Internet literacy, there is a pattern of platforms being regularly used for hate speech, abusive comments, and deliberate distortion of facts.

The public sphere may have become more participatory, but that does not necessarily ensure civil behaviour. Surveys have shown that women, minorities and marginalised communities are particularly targeted by trolls. The extreme reactions often include rape and death threats. With surveillance now the byword for all tech companies, surely it should not take long to locate and end the online run of trolls. A stringent anti-troll law must be put in place to stop the acute mental and physical harassment trolls can cause. The draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, set to be rolled out this year, prescribe penalties for misuse of personal information. Now, there are only a limited number of provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Information Technology Act to address cyberbullying. The courts have been more proactive by directing quick removal of offending content and also mandating the disclosure of basic subscriber information linked to such accounts. In the Shaviya Sharma case (2024), the Delhi High Court had noted that "there can be no doubt that acts of doxing if permitted to go on unchecked could result in violation of right to privacy". In a democracy, all voices should be heard but disinformation and misinformation must be stopped with the help of guidelines and the law.

The educational landscape, its disconcerting shift

Shelley Walia

has taught Cultural and Literary Theory at Panjab University, Chandigarh

Education has historically been regarded as the cornerstone of societal advancement – a realm where critical thinking, free inquiry, and the pursuit of knowledge could flourish. At its best, higher education had always cultivated intellectual independence, nurtured dissent, and inspired progress across disciplines and societies. The boundaries of human understanding were continually pushed through unfettered dialogue and academic exploration.

Yet, in recent decades, the educational landscape, especially within universities, has undergone a profound and disconcerting shift. Institutions once celebrated for fostering independent thought now appear increasingly constrained by bureaucratic controls, external mandates, and ideological gatekeeping. Rather than serving as laboratories of innovation and resistance, the Canadian thinker, H.A. Giroux, sees universities becoming engines of conformity, prioritising managerial efficiency and market alignment over academic freedom and intellectual integrity. Indoctrination, intimidation and intolerance become the central ingredients of education.

From independence to centralisation

A particularly disquieting development in this decline is the unyielding centralisation of academic curricula. In the past, universities enjoyed considerable autonomy to craft syllabi tailored to their students' needs, faculty expertise, and the shifting contours of intellectual inquiry. Today, however, this independence is steadily eroding. Centralised agencies – be they governmental bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) or frameworks such as the National Education Policy (NEP) – increasingly dictate the structure and content of academic programmes. These prescriptions are often influenced not by academic merit or pedagogical philosophy, but by economic agendas or partisan leanings.

The UGC, originally intended to coordinate academic standards, has mutated into an instrument of control. It dictates appointments, interferes in administration, and shapes curricula, often with scant regard for academic judgement, thereby becoming the long arm of a state increasingly intolerant of independent or critical thinking. Let us be clear: this is not about standards – it is about submission. Under the guise of regulation, the UGC has eroded the autonomy of Indian universities to the point of extinction. The promise of self-governance has been replaced with bureaucratic tutelage. An institution that is stripped of autonomy in faculty selection, research direction, and protection of dissent ceases to be a university in any meaningful sense.

The consequences of this centralisation are far-reaching. It undercuts not only academic autonomy but also produces compliant drones, regiments intellectual discourse, and marginalises alternative perspectives. When syllabi are standardised across regions and institutions, the intellectual ecosystem becomes monolithic – devoid of diversity, nuance, or radical innovation. This intellectual flattening not only stifles creativity but also discourages the interrogation of dominant narratives and received assumptions.

> Institutions once celebrated for fostering independent thought, now face bureaucratic controls, external mandates and ideological gatekeeping

Pressures on the academic climate

Historically, campuses have played a vital role in catalysing social change – whether in anti-colonial movements, civil rights struggles, or pro-democracy uprisings. By exerting control over what is taught and how it is taught, policymakers and administrators ensure that universities remain compliant rather than confrontational. Suppressing critical perspectives ensures that higher education does not produce citizens who question authority or imagine alternatives to the status quo. Take, for instance, a research scholar who gives a reference to Noam Chomsky's views on the decline of democracy or talks about nationalism and human rights. There is every chance that the student and his supervisor will be reprimanded by the state, a preposterous intervention indeed.

Take, for instance, the resurgence of reactionary politics that has led to increasing interference in academic affairs. Scholars whose work critiques systemic injustice, discriminatory politics, corporate exploitation, or nationalist rhetoric often find themselves marginalised, defunded, or even expelled or deported. Entire disciplines, especially in the social sciences and humanities, are being defunded or dismissed as politically awkward.

Such pressures have had an unsettling effect on academic life. Teachers, wary of professional reprisals, begin to engage in self-censorship. Controversial research topics are sidestepped not out of disinterest, but out of fear. Students, too, internalise this climate of caution, refraining from engaging critically with contentious issues, apprehensive about academic penalties, peer backlash, or threats to their future careers. The outcome is a smothering intellectual climate where fear of dissent trumps inquiry, and conformity is mistaken for collective wisdom, resulting in the decline of public intellectuals.

This erosion of academic freedom is compounded by the increasing corporatisation of higher education. Universities are no longer viewed as public institutions dedicated to knowledge and social advancement. Instead, they are treated as businesses, expected to generate profit, attract investment, and enhance their brand image. The logic of the market now governs the priorities of educational institutions, reshaping both what is taught and why it is taught. The corporate corruption of higher education and the wrecking of the university is indeed apparent.

Consequently, disciplines that promise immediate financial returns – such as technology, business, and engineering – receive substantial funding and institutional support. Meanwhile, fields that emphasise critical thought, ethical reflection and historical understanding – such as philosophy, literature, and the arts – are sidelined as unproductive or irrelevant. The value of education is thus reduced to its marketability, and knowledge becomes a commodity to be consumed rather than a pursuit to be cherished.

It is often seen that faculty members are not immune to these pressures. Academic faculty are increasingly subject to performative pressures, evaluated through metrics such as publication counts and student satisfaction ratings. The proliferation of global university rankings exacerbates this issue, prioritising conformity to western norms and standardised metrics over indigenous intellectual traditions and context-specific inquiry. This regime incentivises strategic branding and replication of external models, rather than genuine academic innovation.

Academic governance as a concern

This shift has also altered the structure and the ethos of academic governance. University leadership, it is now proposed, can comprise administrators drawn from corporate backgrounds rather than only academic. These individuals will, understandably, bring with them a managerial mindset that privileges efficiency, quantifiable outputs, and brand visibility over scholarly rigour and pedagogical richness. Furthermore, the appointment of Vice Chancellors from non-academic fields compromises the collegial culture of universities, disconnecting decision-making from teaching and research realities.

Visibly, the prevailing trend of appointing academics lacking intellectual engagement with literature and social issues raises concerns about ideological biases influencing leadership selections. To address this, universities should prioritise appointments grounded in the intellectual ethos of liberal arts and sciences, ensuring that selection procedures are rigorous and objective.

The crisis of education has, therefore, at its core, a crisis of imagination. The university must at all costs be preserved as a sanctuary of intellectual freedom, where merit is not the casualty. Failure to do so imperils not only education but also the very idea of democracy. By reclaiming the university's essence, we restore the transformative potential of knowledge, rather than reducing it to mere transaction.

India's rising e-waste, the need to recast its management

Dhanendra Kumar

was India's Executive Director at the World Bank, Secretary to the Government of India and the first Chairman of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). He is currently Chairman, Competition Advisory Services India LLP (COMPAD)

India's journey toward Viksit Bharat is being powered by a rapid digital transformation, with an increasing reliance on electronic devices. From smartphones and laptops to advanced industrial and medical equipment, technology has become the backbone of economic growth, connectivity and innovation. However, this growing dependence on electronic devices has a by-product – electronic waste (e-waste) – which must be managed effectively to ensure sustainable progress. Ranking among the world's top e-waste generators (China, the United States, Japan, and Germany) India confronts a formidable challenge of managing e-waste. India's e-waste volumes soared by 151.03% in six years, from 7,08,445 metric tonnes in 2017-18 to 17,78,400 metric tonnes in 2023-24, with an annual increase of 1,69,283 metric tonnes.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mandates producers, importers and brand owners to manage waste from their products' end-of-life. It holds them accountable for environmental impacts throughout the product lifecycle, promotes sustainable design, integrates environmental costs into pricing, and supports efficient waste management, reducing the burden on municipalities.

Impact of improper e-waste management

The consequences of improper e-waste management extend beyond environmental degradation. India loses more than $10 billion annually due to water pollution from the disposal of cyanide and sulphuric acid solutions, air pollution caused by lead fumes, open coal burning, and plastic incineration, and soil pollution. Beyond the environmental impact, improper e-waste recycling causes a social loss of over $20 billion annually, as most of the hazardous processing is conducted by informal, illegal recyclers (women and children comprise the majority workforce). Tragically, their average lifespan is less than 27 years due to prolonged exposure to toxic substances. Additionally, India forfeits over ₹80,000 crore annually in lost critical metal value due to rudimentary extraction methods in informal recycling. In addition, at least $20 billion in annual tax revenue is lost as informal recycling is largely cash-based and unaccounted for.

> A focus on floor price will help transform e-waste recycling and its management in India

Importance of stable pricing

The E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022 introduced a floor price for EPR certificates, a game-changer for India's e-waste management. This provision ensures fair returns for registered recyclers, curbing informal, hazardous recycling (practices that dominate 95% of the sector). Without a strong floor price, India may miss the chance to lead in sustainable waste management. Stable pricing incentivises formal recyclers to adopt safe, advanced technologies, unlocking e-waste's valuable materials such as gold and copper. It prevents chaos seen in sectors such as plastic waste and drives investment in infrastructure, turning e-waste into a resource and supporting a circular economy.

This economic pivot carries profound environmental benefits. Fair compensation motivates recyclers to prioritise material recovery over disposal, shrinking landfill burdens and halting the seepage of toxins such as lead and mercury into soil and waterways. It recasts e-waste as an asset rather than as a liability, redefining India's waste narrative toward sustainability. Globally, EPR fees paid by original equipment manufacturers are significantly higher than the floor EPR prices fixed by the Government of India, in alignment with global best practices. The minor impact of floor EPR prices on product costs is outweighed by the significant environmental and social benefits of formal recycling and sustainable practices.

An effective floor price levels the playing field by offsetting the informal sector's cost advantage. It makes formal recycling viable, reduces waste leakage, and ensures more responsible processing. This not only corrects market imbalances but also drives compliance, helping producers meet EPR targets through certified recyclers. When recyclers are adequately paid, they can expand operations, deliver verifiable outcomes, and reduce producers' incentives to bypass obligations. In a country where only 10% of e-waste reaches formal recycling, this stability is a game-changer. Without it, certificate prices could collapse, starving recyclers of funds and exposing producers to unpredictable costs, destabilising EPR markets. A predictable pricing framework fosters trust, ensuring the system doesn't erode into a free-for-all.

Critics argue that a floor price hikes producer costs, potentially raising consumer prices. This concern, while valid, misses the broader calculus. The cost of inaction – environmental ruin, health crises and lost resources – dwarfs the modest burden of fair pricing. Producers can offset expenses by innovating durable, recyclable designs, which is a core EPR goal. The plastic industry's misstep with low prices, which spawned sham recyclers and eroded trust, underscores the peril of under-pricing. Far from stifling progress, a floor price could surge innovation, rewarding efficiency and technological breakthroughs. India's e-waste crisis demands audacious solutions, aligning with economic and ecological imperatives.

Need for a recycling vision

The stakes of EPR floor pricing transcend financial concerns. Inadequate pricing imperils more than profits. It endangers rivers with pollution, soils and agriculture produce with harmful ingredients, damages communities with toxic exposure, and squanders valuable potential. By valuing recycling efforts, India can formalise its e-waste sector, spur advanced infrastructure, and champion resource efficiency, ensuring responsible practices.

As India vies for sustainability leadership, this floor price is the bedrock of its recycling vision – a bold move to transform e-waste into opportunity, setting a global standard. The numbers demand action: a 73% e-waste surge in five years is a clarion call. With an adequate floor price, economic vitality and environmental care can coexist, securing the future with sustainability.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The guns fall silent

The sudden cessation of military actions between India and Pakistan has left several people in disbelief. In this, how extensive was the involvement of external forces? India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has himself become the unfortunate and undeserving victim of jingoism while he has only represented the government before the media. Some, and these include TV 'studio room warriors', even went to the extent of calling for Pakistan's Balkanisation while India made it clear that terrorists, their installations and infrastructure were the targets. War-mongers seem to believe in the Orwellian paradox that war is peace. Even though the war clouds may have blown over, the battle is far from over. The terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror strike are still at large.

Abdul Assis P.A.,
Thrissur, Kerala

Retirement

Virat Kohli's retirement from Tests will bring to an end one of contemporary Indian cricket's great chapters. He was known for multiple things — as a successful captain, stylish batsman, great fielder, on-the face and aggressive. He was the face of the new India and will be more remembered for his immense contribution to Test cricket. His aggressive captaincy ensured that games were always engaging. Test cricket will miss one of its best protagonists.

Subash Balakrishnan,
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

When water standards don't hold water

Sachin Tiwale,

Fellow,
Water and Society Programme,
Centre for Environment and Development,
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

How much water should a person receive each day? In India, this question is not answered by science or necessity, but by an arbitrary metric – the per capita water supply standard, prescribed in litres per capita per day (lpcd). While the human right to water guarantees access to safe and clean water, and obligates governments to provide basic services, in practice this right is shaped by the per capita standard. This benchmark not only dictates how much water citizens are entitled to demand for their daily needs, but also drives planning and investments in urban water infrastructure, from dams to household taps. Yet, despite its widespread use by municipal authorities across India, it lacks empirical grounding, objective rationale, and validity, making it a policy instrument built more on convenience than evidence.

Defining per capita standard

The per capita standard, combined with population figures, is used to compute the domestic water demand of a city. It serves as a reference point to assess the adequacy, 'water shortages', and 'over consumption'. The per capita standard is also used to assess future investments required for developing and maintaining water supply services. In addition, water demand computed using this standard determines how much water is to be diverted from rural to urban areas – and the scale of its negative consequences. Mumbai, for instance, justifies the development of upcoming dams using the per capita standard of 240 lpcd for domestic use alone, excluding losses.

The per capita standards are prescribed by multiple agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO), a technical wing of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Additionally, cities such as Mumbai and Delhi follow their own standards. Evidence suggests that these standards are not based on extensive consumer surveys or empirical data on water consumption. Studies show that the per capita water demand varies based on socio-economic status, climate, geography, and culture. Yet, a single value is often prescribed for the entire country despite its vast geographical expanse and climatic variations.

For example, CPHEEO prescribes 150 lpcd for megacities and 135 lpcd for all other cities with existing or planned sewerage systems without providing any rationale to substantiate these numbers. Similarly, the standard of 55 lpcd prescribed under the Jal Jeevan Mission for all rural drinking water supply schemes lacks any empirical rationale. The same standard was set under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (2013) for designing rural piped water supply. However, it only aimed to provide individual tap connections to at least 30% of households – far from universal coverage. Later, the Swachh Bharat Mission pushed for universal access to individual household toilets, significantly increasing per capita water consumption. Yet, while promising a functional tap connection for every household under JJM, the earlier standard of 55 lpcd was retained.

While designing urban water supply schemes, cities often follow the per capita standards prescribed by the project financing agency. The per capita standard influences the overall cost of the scheme. Since water supply schemes are capital-intensive, the majority of cities depend on central government assistance (through AMRUT and the Smart Cities Mission) for their construction. As CPHEEO provides a technical sanction to these schemes only if the design adheres to prescribed standards, engineers and consultants follow CPHEEO standards unquestioningly to ensure a smooth approval process, regardless of the actual water requirements. CPHEEO standards have therefore become the de facto norm in urban water supply.

Cities conveniently apply multiple per capita standards simultaneously, regardless of actual water requirements. For instance, in 2012, while preparing the detailed project report for the Gargai Dam, Mumbai adopted a standard of 150 lpcd – deviating from the 240 lpcd used for other projects – just to meet CPHEEO requirements and secure Central government funding.

No monitoring

The prescribed standards are not monitored during service delivery to ensure water supply according to the design standards at the doorstep of all citizens. To ensure water delivery as per the standard, the consumer connections need to be metered, and the installation of bulk water meters in the distribution network is a prerequisite to measure water flows. However, very few cities have connections with functional meters. In many cities, supply zones are not isolated, and bulk water meters are not installed. Therefore, it is not feasible to trace how much water is flowing where in the city.

Although the service level benchmarks used by MoHUA to assess the performance of municipal water supply include per capita supply as a parameter, it is measured at the city level and, therefore, fails to indicate whether water is delivered to citizens according to the standard. As a result, the per capita standard of water supply, a useful metric for planners (to allocate financial resources) and engineers (to design infrastructure), remains a fictitious number for citizens when it comes to actual service delivery. Systematic efforts are needed to establish evidence-based per capita standards and ensure equitable water delivery so that every citizen receives their rightful share.

Despite its widespread use by municipal authorities across India, the per capita water supply standard lacks empirical grounding, objective rationale, and validity

A rally with a deeper intent

Stalin's solidarity march was also aimed at erasing the tag of DMK being 'secessionist'

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
sureshkumar.d@thehindu.co.in

Last week, when India's defence forces launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror networks in Pakistan, M.K. Stalin was among the first Chief Ministers to commend the military action. He made it clear that Tamil Nadu stood resolute with the Indian Army in its fight against terrorism.

Two days later, Mr. Stalin announced plans to lead a solidarity rally in Chennai. "This is a time to unite and show our support for the Indian Army, which is courageously confronting Pakistan's repeated violations and acts of terrorism," he declared.

Even Chief Ministers belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not wear their patriotism on their sleeve as visibly as Mr. Stalin did, with such a public display of support for the armed forces, especially when it was too early to judge whether the military operations would escalate into a war. However, by the time Mr. Stalin completed the 3.8-kilometre march on a sultry Saturday evening in Chennai, paying floral tributes to the portraits of fallen soldiers and to the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam attack at the War Memorial, a ceasefire had been announced.

Mr. Stalin's act, which included him carrying the Indian flag at the beginning and end of the rally, likely fulfilled a deeper, underlying intent – of dispelling the label of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) being a "secessionist" party. Despite its history of having relinquished the demand for a 'Dravida Nadu' (a separate Dravidian state) during the 1962 Chinese invasion, and having shared power at the Centre for significant periods (1989-90, 1999-2003, and 2004-March 2013), the DMK has long endured this label. Critics routinely weaponise this tag to attack the party whenever it advocates for State autonomy, stronger federalism, or employs strong symbolic gestures. For instance, two months ago, when the Stalin government replaced the Indian currency symbol '₹' with the Tamil alphabet Roo in its Budget document, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sharply condemned it, viewing it as "more than mere symbolism". She argued that it signalled a dangerous mindset that "weakens Indian unity and promotes secessionist sentiments under the guise of regional pride." In her view, it was a "completely avoidable" example of "language and regional chauvinism."

Mr. Stalin, who had approved the Tamil logo in the Budget's promotional materials, defended the move as a statement of his government's assertiveness regarding the State's language policy. While the promotion of Hindi is often framed by its supporters as an act of national integration, Tamil Nadu's opposition to Hindi imposition is dismissed as Tamil chauvinism.

The DMK has faced similar accusations in the past. When former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi set up the P.V. Rajamannar Committee to study Centre-State relations in 1969, he had to clarify that the demand for greater State powers was not a call for secession. Even after the committee's report was released in 1971, he reiterated that the aim was not to confront the Centre. Similarly, when Mr. Stalin recently announced the formation of the Justice Kurian Joseph Committee to strengthen State autonomy and federalism, the BJP viewed it with suspicion.

The Stalin government's strong opposition to the National Education Policy, the terms of the PM SHRI scheme, the three-language policy, and proposed delimitation have all been seen by 'nationalists' as more than just assertions of autonomy. In this context, his decision to lead a solidarity march on an issue where any dissenting view or reasoning is swiftly branded 'anti-national' was perhaps a carefully considered balancing act.

Despite his strained relationship with the Chief Minister, Governor R.N. Ravi endorsed Mr. Stalin's rally. He thanked the Chief Minister for organising the rally, calling it an expression of "unequivocal solidarity of our 8-crore people of Tamil Nadu" with the Indian armed forces. It was Mr. Ravi who had previously criticised "too much stress on federalism" and had infamously claimed, "Unfortunately, in Tamil Nadu, there has been a regressive politics of 'we are Dravidian'... An entire effort has been created over the last half-century to reinforce this narrative that 'we are not part of the nation'..."

Mr. Stalin's rally now serves as a strategic counterpoint for the DMK to challenge critics who question its commitment to the nationalist cause.

With a new Pope, an understanding of Catholicism in India

A look at the religious behaviours of Catholics, who form the largest share among all Christian denominations globally and in India

DATA POINT

Mohd Arshid

Upon the passing of Pope Francis, Chicago-born Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected to succeed him as Pope Leo XIV.

The conclave to elect the new pontiff began on May 7. The election of the Pope takes place through an electoral college composed of Cardinals from around the world. This time, the electoral college included 135 Cardinals from 70 countries, with four Cardinals from India, the country's highest-ever tally.

Among all Christian denominations, Catholics comprise the largest population, forming 15.9% of the global population and a large share of the Indian Christian population as well. The Vatican is a spiritual symbol for this denomination. In this context, this is an analysis of the Catholic denomination, its religious behaviour, and its demographic share among Indian Christians.

According to data from the PEW Research Center, about 37% of Christians in India are Catholic, 17.9% are Baptist, 9.5% are Presbyterian, and 24.3% belong to other denominations. About 10% of Christians do not affiliate with any denomination **(Chart 1)**.

Chart 2 shows the distribution of Catholics among Christian social groups. It shows that nearly 75% of general category Christians, 16.8% of Scheduled Caste Christians, 23.7% of Christian tribal people, 55.5% of Other Backward Classes Christians, and 23.5% of Christians from the Most Backward Classes are Catholic.

Though the majority of Indian Catholics belong to upper castes, for the first time, a Dalit, Anthony Poola, the Archbishop of Hyderabad, was among the four Indian cardinals who voted for the new Pope. He was appointed as a cardinal in 2022 by Pope Francis.

Map 3 shows the State-wise share of Catholics within the total Christian population of each State. A State marked as zero indicates that it has Christians, but no Catholics. A majority of the Christian population in Nagaland and Mizoram is Catholic. In Meghalaya, it is 90.8% and in Goa, it is 58.7%.

To measure aggregate religiosity in India, I developed an Aggregate Religiosity Index that captures the religiosity of all major religious groups in India from 1989 to 2023, based on 15 indicators. The findings reveal that all religious groups in India exhibit high levels of religiosity. **Tables 4 and 5** provide a breakdown of the most recent religiosity levels (in % terms) among Christian denominations across selected indicators.

More than 90% of Catholic respondents consider religion important, believe in God and participate in religious festivals **(Table 4).** Public expressions of faith, such as wearing a religious pendant (74.6%) and attending services (59.9%), are also common. However, only a small proportion (11.2%) actively follows religious leaders. This suggests that while personal religiosity remains high, institutional influence may be limited.

Table 5 presents the social, democratic, and economic behaviour of Indian Christians. The first column corresponds to Catholics.

Within Christianity, Catholics exhibit a comparatively softer attitude towards religion than Presbyterians and Christians who do not affiliate with any denomination. Even Baptists and Christians from other denominations are stricter than Catholics when it comes to opposing inter-religious marriages. Catholics tend to have higher literacy levels compared to members of all other Christian denominations except Presbyterians.

Mohd Arshid is a research scholar studying the political economy of religion in India at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, New Delhi

Catholics in India: a profile

Data for the charts were sourced from the PEW Research Center and the 2011 Census of India.

Chart 1: Denomination-wise share of Christians in India (in %)

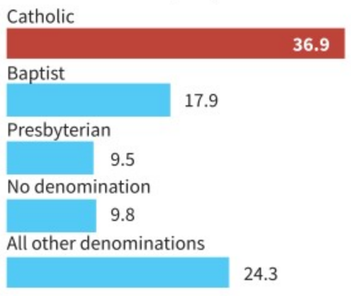
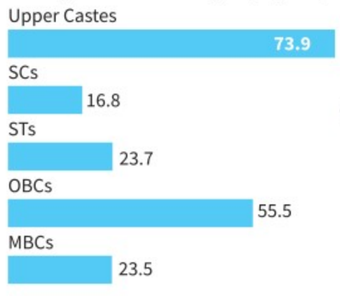


Chart 2: Distribution of Catholics among Christian social groups (in %)



Map 3: Share of Catholics within the Christian population in each State

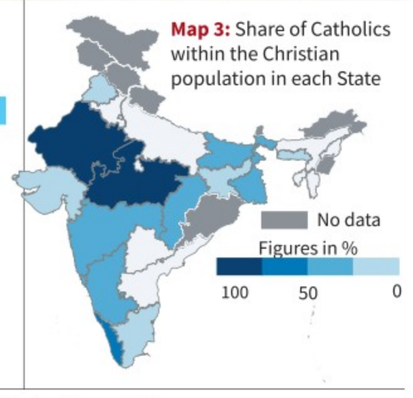


Table 4: The table presents the religious behaviour of Christian denominations in India. Figures in %

Religious Indicator	Catholic	Baptist	Presbyterian	All other denominations	Not affiliated with any denomination
Importance of religion in life	90.4	92.3	86.5	90.7	92.9
Religious attendance	59.9	63.5	86.5	62.6	45.5
Believe in afterlife	66.6	77.9	91.7	68.7	57.6
Celebration of religious festivals	97.1	100.0	95.8	95.9	88.8
Believe in God	98.7	99.4	99.0	97.2	96.9
Follow religious leaders	11.2	11.6	4.2	21.5	15.2
Made pilgrimages	52.7	23.8	7.3	49.2	38.4
Fasting	65.8	54.1	42.7	67.5	59.5
Believe in the Day of Judgement	62.6	48.1	79.2	52.4	42.4
Frequency of the recitation of religious books	80.2	88.4	83.3	79.7	66.7
Wear a religious pendant	74.6	20.4	29.2	54.1	62.6

Table 5: The table shows the social, democratic, and economic behaviour of Indian Christians. Figures in %

Indicator	Catholic	Baptist	Presbyterian	Others	No affiliation
Women should have the same rights as men	95.2	97.8	82.3	92.7	93.9
Abortion should be legal	42.2	18.8	11.5	53.7	39.3
Commitment towards democracy	58.6	17.7	80.2	53.7	90.9
Technology use in balancing family gender ratio	47.3	63.0	59.4	44.7	45.5
Against inter-caste marriages (for men)	53.5	54.7	81.3	60.6	78.8
Against inter-religious marriages (for women)	53.2	72.4	93.8	63.8	78.8
Against inter-caste marriages (for women)	67.4	51.9	86.5	58.0	88.9
Against inter-religious Marriages (for women)	50.8	71.3	81.3	62.2	81.0
Inheritance: men and women should have equal rights	72.5	66.9	49.0	57.3	61.6
Earning money: Primary responsibility of men and women	57.0	67.4	63.5	65.4	63.0
Illiteracy	11.8	14.9	9.4	19.1	30.0
Men and women are equally capable of leadership	61.8	67.4	16.7	57.3	67.7

To measure aggregate religiosity in India, the author developed an Aggregate Religiosity Index based on 15 indicators

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 13, 1975

Fifty years ago | Scheme to improve citrus plantations

New Delhi, May 12: The Union Government has sanctioned a Rs. 84 lakhs scheme for rehabilitating the declining citrus orchards in many parts of the country and popularising high density planting. Citrus cultivation is facing a crisis because of the fall in productivity resulting from citrus die-back and the area under citrus has remained stagnant during the last 20 years. About 1,40,000 hectares are under citrus. The yield has gone down in new areas such as Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh because of citrus die-back while it has already affected the age-old industry in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala. The sweet orange plantations in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are faced with a virus problem coupled with bad orchard management practices, resulting in a fall in yield. The new scheme will try to popularise a package of practices which would help to rehabilitate the orchards in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Kerala where mandarin oranges are widely grown. The scheme will also try to popularise high density planting by which it is possible to plant 450 seedlings per hectare against 250 formerly. Experiments at the Chethalli and Dhaula Kuan (Himachal Pradesh) citrus research stations have shown that high density planting would increase productivity by 50 per cent. A survey by the Institute of Foreign Trade had shown that India should be able to export 5,000 tonnes of orange and an equal quantity of acid lime by 1975-76 to Europe, West Asia and South-East Asia.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 13, 1925

In Parliament

London, May 12: In the House of Commons, Mr. Guinness informed Mr. Beckett that the duties and emoluments of the Directors of the Suez Canal nominated by the British Government were identical with those of other Directors. The Directors received from the company two per cent of net profits as attendance fees. Their renumeration consequently varied considerably year by year. The sum divided among 32 Directors in 1923, the last year for which particulars were available, amounted to 52,81,239 francs.

From Page One

India won't bend to Pak. nuclear blackmail: Modi

Referring to the presence of Pakistani Army officials at funerals of terrorists killed in Operation Sindoor, Mr. Modi said it had unmasked the fact that the Pakistani state was a sponsor of terror. In future, India will not distinguish between terrorists and their sponsors, even if it was the Pakistani state. He also said the Pakistani state's sponsorship of terror will ultimately lead to its own destruction.

'Universities of terrorism'

He said that Bahawalpur and Muridke (two of the terror camps hit by Indian forces) were "universities of terrorism", with links to every big terror attack in the last few years, including the 9/11 attacks and those on the London tube system.

Stating that India's unity was its strength as was the resolve of its citizens, the Prime Minister said that the barbaric attack at Pahalgam, where the religion of victims was asked before they were killed in front of their wives, daughters and sisters, and vermillion (*sindoor*) got wiped from the forehead of the wives, had led to a situation where the terrorists themselves, over 100 in number, had been wiped off.

"There was an attempt to disrupt harmony in our country and society, but India responded with unity," Mr. Modi said.

'Forces still on alert'

He lauded the role of the three armed services – Army, Air Force and the Navy – as well as the Border Security Force (BSF) in hitting targets in Pakistan within the first three days and also defending the country when Pakistan retaliated. "They are still on full alert," he added.

"This is definitely not a time for war but it is not a time for terrorism either," said the Prime Minister adding that the Indian armed forces had demonstrated that they are more than competent in 21st Century warfare.

He heaped praise on the made-in-India arms and armaments, which, he said, signalled to the world that India was ready.

"Pakistan, seeing the destruction of terror camps and India's ability to take the operations to their logical end, begged for a cessation of hostilities and approached India for it, giving assurances that they would act on terror and desist from attacks," he said.

Alluding to the fact that Monday was Buddha Purnima, which marks the birth of Lord Buddha, whose teachings espoused peace and non-violence, he said the "way to peace also goes via exercise of strength". "India needs to be strong to live in peace, and it may need to exercise its strength in order to achieve it," he said.

India, Pak. to cut troops on borders

"I would like to highlight again that in every single domain of Operation Sindoor, there has been total synergy between the three Services," noted Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai, Director-General of Military Operations.

The Directors-General of Operations of the Army, Navy, and Air Force underscored how the country's air defence grid functioned seamlessly to shoot down the waves of incoming drones, loitering munitions, and missiles launched by Pakistan between May 7 and 10.

The D-G of Naval Operations, Vice-Admiral A. N. Pramod said their powerful Carrier Battle Group (CBG) with formidable offensive capability was able to operate "with impunity and maintained an uncontested presence" in the area of operations. "Effectively it compelled the Pakistani air elements to remain bottled up close to the Makaran coast, denying any opportunity to be a threat in maritime space."

Air Marshal Bharti delved into how the Indian armed forces managed to minimise the damage to both civilian and military infrastructure in the country, in spite of the unrelenting efforts by the Pakistani forces. In this regard, noting that while much has been said and written about the newer systems, the DGAO highlighted the performance and efficacy demonstrated by even the older and battle-proven air defence weapons such as the Pechora, OSA-AK and the L-70, Zu-23 and Schilka guns in countering the Pakistani threat vectors in the current operations. Another highlight has been the stellar performance of indigenous air defence weapons such as the Akash surface-to-air missile system, he stated. "I would like to also mention that, the putting together and operationalisation of this potent air defence environment has been possible over the last decade due to unwavering budgetary and policy support provided by the government in acquiring state-of-the-art equipment and weapon systems."

Maritime surveillance

Furtherm on the Navy's role, Vice-Admiral Pramod said that in the current stand-off, the presence of the aircraft carrier with a large number of Mig-29K fighters and air-borne early warning helicopters "prevented any suspicious or hostile aircraft to close the CBG within several hundred kilometres". "Over the past few years, and most importantly, immediately after the cowardly Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack at Pahalgam, we had validated our anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence capability in a complex threat environment using cross-platform cooperative mechanism," the officer said. "The Indian Navy maintains a credible capability to detect, identify and neutralise any aerial platforms that threaten our units at sea," he added.

India engaged with China on germanium export restrictions, says embassy

The Indian embassy in Beijing listed germanium as the only element mentioned in grievances from Indian industry players regarding China's export restrictions of rare earth elements

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The exports of germanium and gallium to the United States were largely banned last November. REUTERS

India is engaging with the Chinese government to navigate export restrictions on germanium, a critical mineral that is used for manufacturing semiconductors, fibre optic cables, and solar panels. The export restrictions for the element – over half of its annual output comes from China – may have caused some friction in electronics manufacturing and other industries that require the element.

In response to a Right to Information application from *The Hindu*, the Indian Embassy in Beijing listed germanium as the only element mentioned in grievances from Indian industry players regarding China's export restrictions of rare earth elements (REEs). Germanium is not listed as an REE, a category that includes 17 heavy metals that China has a practical monopoly in refining.

Germanium and gallium's exports to the United States were largely banned last November, and a year before, were placed under "export licensing" for other countries.

Fully reliant on imports

India makes no germanium, and is completely reliant on imports for the element. According to a financial daily's report in 2024, India is relying on imports of germanium through suppliers in the United Arab Emirates, a process that has inflated costs for Indian importers.

The embassy in Beijing declined to disclose specific representations and meetings with Chinese officials on the issue. "The matter has been taken up with Ministries/Departments concerned on the Chinese side through formal communications as well as during meetings," the embassy said in its response to *The Hindu*.

Germanium oxide is used in the "core of the preform" for fibre optic cables, an industry expert said. "Preforms are solid cylinders of glass which are used to draw optical fibres in specialised furnaces."

While relations with China have cooled down in recent months, the country is reportedly thwarting certain projects with export curbs and even travel restrictions. For instance, Apple, Inc.'s contract manufacturer for iPhones, Foxconn, was reportedly prevented from allowing personnel to travel from China to India, and more recently, moving heavy machinery needed to make the phones. "I guess these are matters which pertain to Foxconn and several other Indian private entities so they would be looking into it," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to a query on these curbs in January.

Assam CM sets target of 95 seats for 2026 Assembly election

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Buoyed by the favourable panchayat election results, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance has set a target of winning 95 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections in Assam.

The BJP and its ally, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), won 307 out of the 397 Zila Parishad seats across 27 districts. The Congress bagged 62 while other parties and Independents won 28 seats.

As the counting was on, around 7 p.m. on Sunday, the BJP-AGP combine had won 1,409 out of 2,192 Anchalik Panchayat seats, followed by the Congress with 122 seats and others 41.

"The outcome reflects the faith people have in the BJP and our NDA partners. They have inspired us to work harder for the 2026 Assembly elections, in which we can win at least 95 seats," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told presspersons.

He also said the NDA seat count in the 126-member Assam Assembly could go up to 104.

The NDA won 75 seats in the 2021 Assembly elections. The seat count increased to 84 following by-elections.

Congress's performance

The Chief Minister also took a swipe at Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi after the Congress drew a blank in two eastern districts - Jorhat and Sivasagar - under his Jorhat Lok Sabha constituency. The Congress's performance in the other 12 districts of eastern Assam was almost as dismal. The BJP-AGP combine won 161 out of 167 Zila Parishad seats in the eastern Assam. The Congress managed four seats.

Assam BJP president and MP Dilip Saikia said the NDA government's commitment to rural development "helped us secure more than 80%" of the Zila Parishad and Anchalik Parishad seats.

Bengal Police crack down on anti-India comments

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Police have cracked down on persons making anti-India comments on social media over the past few days as armed conflict between India and Pakistan was raging on the western front.

Arrests were made in Hooghly, Murshidabad, Asansol, Howrah, Barasat, Bankura, and Uttar Dinajpur by the police for putting up posts on social media that indicated anti-India sentiments or any mischief.

"We have picked up people from all across the State, whoever tried to make any offensive remarks, whatever the intent might be," a senior West Bengal Police officer told *The Hindu*.

The police said that six to eight persons were arrested over the past few days but the number of offensive posts were far fewer on this occasion. The police have booked the violators for creating enmity between two communities among other charges.

Nagpur police to seek custody extension of Kerala-based youth

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The accused will be produced before the judicial magistrate in Nagpur on Tuesday, as his remand is set to end

The Nagpur Police have conducted searches and seizures relating to the arrest of a Kerala youth, who claimed to be an "independent journalist". The police will seek an extension of the custody of Rejaz M. Sheeba Sydeek, 26, who was arrested in Nagpur on May 8 for "waging war against the government" after his photo carrying guns was found by the police.

He had posted slogans against the Indian Army over Operation Sindoor, the police told *The Hindu*. "He has claimed to be an independent journalist. We are verifying the claim," an official said. He will be produced before the judicial magistrate in Nagpur on Tuesday, as his remand is set to end.

No weapons have been recovered so far. He has been booked under Sections 149 (deals with collecting arms or ammunition with the intention of waging war against the Government of India), 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), and 353 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 67 of the Information and Intelligence Act.

The other seizures made during his arrest were three books, including one on Prof. G.N. Saibaba and another on Marxism-Leninism. Material in support of the banned CPI (Maoist) was also found, the FIR stated.

The police said fresh searches led to many more seizures, but refused to divulge details about them. The details of the remand application too were termed "confidential" information.

Mr. Sydeek posted his photo on Instagram where he was "carrying two weapons". The post allegedly read, "Licenced to defend and resist."

Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal welcome 'understanding' to pause firing on Indian border

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Penny Wong.

Australia became one of the first countries to welcome the "understanding" between India and Pakistan to stop firing and military action on the Line of Control and the International Border (IB) that was reached on May 10 amid tense circumstances.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong held a telephone call with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, describing the process of de-escalation as "critical to regional peace". Other regional leaders, including the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh government Muhammad Yunus and Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, have also welcomed the pause in firing.

"I know many Australians are concerned by recent hostilities between India and Pakistan. I've spoken with Dr. S. Jaishankar and Ishaq Dar to welcome the ceasefire and urge respect for its terms. De-escalation and counter-terrorism efforts are critical to regional peace and security," said Ms. Wong after speaking to Mr. Jaishankar, who congratulated her on her reappointment and said the two sides "discussed recent developments and the importance of zero-tolerance against terrorism".

Following the telephone conversation with Ms. Wong, Mr. Dar claimed that Pakistan had "shown restraint" during the conflict and assured that "Pakistan would continue to work in a responsible manner for maintaining regional peace and security".

Earlier, Mr. Yunus had welcomed the "understanding" between the Directors-General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan.

"I would also like to express my deep appreciation to President Trump and Secretary of State Rubio for their effective mediation. Bangladesh will continue to support our two neighbours to resolve differences through diplomacy," said Mr. Yunus acknowledging the announcement from U.S. President Donald Trump who had posted on social media platform Truth Social about the role that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had played in brokering the understanding between the two sides.

Mr. Oli spoke in the Nepali Parliament on Sunday where he said that the leaders of India and Pakistan have displayed "political maturity" by agreeing to the "understanding" to stop firing.

India launched Operaton Sindoor on May 7 after the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

BSF sub-inspector killed in line of duty laid to rest

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Imran Raza, son of BSF sub-inspector Mohammad Imtiaz, pays tribute to his father in Patna on Monday. PTI

The mortal remains of Border Security Force sub-inspector Mohammad Imtiaz, who was killed in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor in the R.S. Pura sector in Jammu, reached Patna on Monday.

He was given a guard of honour by the security personnel, and a wreath-laying ceremony was held at the Patna airport.

Mr. Imtiaz's son, Imran Raza, was also present at the airport to receive his body. The body was taken to his native village, Narayanpur in Chhapra, where the last rites were performed.

Several politicians, including Tejashwi Yadav, the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, and State Minister Shravan Kumar paid tributes.

Mr. Yadav said the country and Bihar took pride in Mr. Imtiaz's sacrifice and martyrdom.

Mr. Raza said, "I am really proud of my father who did not give up till his last breath and sacrificed his life for the country. The last time papa called me was at 5.30 a.m. (May 10) saying that terrorists had attacked, and his right leg was injured. I told my father not to lose hope as I was coming to meet him."

"I boarded the flight for Delhi, but when I reached there, I was informed that there was no flight for Jammu. Then I travelled by train. I received a call from an Assistant Commandant at 6 p.m. who informed me that my father was no more. I did not get the chance to even speak to my father in his final moments," he said.

Mr. Raza broke down while speaking to the media and said that his father had last visited the village to celebrate Id with his family and resumed duty 18 days ago.

'Army's befitting reply'

"It is because of such brave martyrs that we are all safe today. The nation will always remember their sacrifice. We should all be proud of the Indian Army and soldiers for the way they gave a befitting reply to Pakistan. It is not for the first time the Indian Army has boldly replied to Pakistan, it has happened before as well," Mr. Yadav said.

Mr. Shravan said that through Operation Sindoor, the Indian government had targeted terrorism and the Army had played an important role.

Congress worker killed by Maoists in Bijapur

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

A Congress worker was killed by Maoists in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday night, said the police.

The victim, identified as Naga Bhandari, ran a Public Distribution System outlet. His elder brother was also killed by Maoists six months ago, claimed-Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel on X. Bhandari had gone to a social event and was murdered by unidentified Maoists with an axe, said the police.

Operation Sindoor was controlled and non-escalatory: BJP

Party says Indian armed forces exhibited indomitable courage, fulfilling PM Modi's promise of punishment beyond the imagination of terrorists

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

> Narendra Modi got full support from over 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the U.S. in the fight against terrorism. Pakistan stood isolated
>
> **SAMBIT PATRA**
> BJP MP and spokesperson

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday said the armed forces exhibited indomitable courage in delivering on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of inflicting punishment beyond the imagination of terrorists, by razing their bases to the ground, even those located deep inside Pakistan. All the objectives of Operation Sindoor were achieved, it said.

In honour of the defence forces for the successful operation, the BJP will organise an 11-day "Tiranga Yatra" across the country beginning Tuesday. Eminent personalities from all sections of society are expected to participate in the outreach campaign.

Earlier, at a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra said the Prime Minister listened to the call of the countrymen and promised from the land of Bihar that the brutal killings of 26 people would be avenged, that the action would be beyond the imagination of terrorists, that their hideouts would be flattened, and the defence forces did exactly the same.

Mr. Patra said the Prime Minister was on a visit to Saudi Arabia when the Pahalgam terror attack took place on April 22. He got full support from over 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the U.S., in the fight against terrorism. Pakistan stood isolated.

All the political parties in the country showed unity, and it was a major achievement.

Listing the objectives of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Patra said the first target was to reach the terrorist hideouts, even those located in the remote areas of Pakistan. The second target was to kill the terrorists; the third was to destroy those targets; the fourth was to avoid any civilian casualties; and the last target was not to attack any Pakistani military installation, as the fight was against terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was 100% successful, it was controlled, measured, precise, and non-escalatory, Mr. Patra asserted. Since the objectives of Operation Sindoor had been achieved, India was not in favour of further escalation from the very beginning. He said the operation was still under way and, as the Prime Minister had clearly said, the defence forces would respond to every bullet from Pakistan with a shell.

On trolling of Misri

Responding to a question on the trolling of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on social media after he announced the cessation of military action, he said: "We treat with respect all the people associated with Operation Sindoor, whether it is the Army, our political component, or our bureaucrats, we salute all of them. Social media is definitely a tool, but it cannot be the basis for deciding how the country will move forward," he said.

Trump claims U.S. averted 'nuclear conflict'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House in Washington on February 13 this year.

The U.S. did not just "broker the ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, it averted a "nuclear conflict", said U.S. President Donald Trump in his latest claims, adding that he had threatened to stop trade with both countries unless they agreed to end hostilities.

The comments, the first statement the U.S. President made in person at the White House on the developments, were rebutted by Indian government sources, who said there had been "no reference to trade" during talks between Indian and U.S. officials over de-escalating the situation last week.

"I said [to the Indian and Pakistani leadership], let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade," Mr. Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday, repeating some of the claims he had made over the weekend in social media posts and added that trade was the "big" reason the two sides reached an understanding to stop military action against each other. He added that the U.S. is "negotiating with India" at present, disclosing for the first time that the U.S. planned to start negotiating on trade with Pakistan as well.

Government sources, however, denied the claim. The sources said that after the commencement of Operation Sindoor on May 7, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, while U.S. Secretary of State and NSA Marco Rubio spoke to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on May 8 and to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on May 10, when the ceasefire agreement was made. "There was no reference to trade in any of these discussions," they said.

Mr. Trump also said that U.S. officials had "stopped the nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan. "I think it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that," the U.S. President said in his comments.

Misri to brief panel

The controversial statements are likely to be raised by Opposition MPs at the next parliamentary committee meeting on external affairs, expected to be held next Monday, when Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is expected to brief on the developments between India and Pakistan.

It is unclear whether Mr. Trump's reference to a possible nuclear conflict was connected to widespread speculation about the impact of India's air strikes on May 10 on a suspected nuclear site in an area called the Kirana Hills near the PAF's Mushaf base in Sargodha. When asked about the reports, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti said Indian forces did not know about the site. "We did not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there," he added. However, the government has not so far clarified on record about Mr. Trump's other contentions, including the claim of mediation.

As *The Hindu* had reported, several former diplomats had criticised Mr. Trump's comments, in two social media posts about the U.S.'s role in India-Pakistan talks, saying that they violate India's principles against third-party mediation, hyphenation with Pakistan, or internationalisation of internal issues.

(With inputs from Dinakar Peri and Sobhana K. Nair)

Modi's address silent on Trump's claim: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "much delayed" address to the nation on Operation Sindoor was silent on U.S. President Donald Trump's "revelations" that the U.S. averted a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan by threatening to stop trade with the two countries if their hostilities didn't end soon.

The Congress's official position on the matter, articulated by party communications chief Jairam Ramesh, was at odds with that of senior party leader and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, who asserted that the ceasefire was a "bilateral agreement" between India and Pakistan.

"The Prime Minister's much-delayed address to the nation was completely upstaged by President Trump's revelations a few minutes earlier. The PM was completely silent on them. Has India agreed to U.S. mediation? Has India agreed to a 'neutral site' for a dialogue with Pakistan? Will India now give in on U.S. demands for opening Indian markets in autos, agriculture, and other areas?" Mr. Ramesh asked in a post on X.

He demanded that the Prime Minister have a meeting with leaders of all political parties.

"The months ahead will demand both painstaking diplomacy and a collective resolve. One-liners and dialogue-*baazi* are poor substitutes. We applaud and salute our armed forces unreservedly. They have done the country proud. We are 100% with them at all times. But the Prime Minister has still much to answer for," Mr. Ramesh added.

Tharoor's view

Contradicting this view, Mr. Tharoor told PTI that the Government of India allowed a "certain politician to take credit", referring to Mr. Trump's claim.

"I see it as a particular politician wanting to take credit for something, and I can see that the Government of India probably said, 'Let them take the credit if they want to'. But from our point of view, we have made it clear that the peace followed a request from the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Pakistan, who called his Indian counterpart at 3.35 p.m. And we didn't take very long to say yes – because we never wanted a long war," Mr. Tharoor said.

IN BRIEF

'32 airports that were closed now available for operations'

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday announced that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan. Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in northern and western parts of the country were temporarily shut. "It is recommended for travellers to check flight status directly with airlines and monitor airlines' websites for regular updates," the AAI said in a statement. PTI

Left parties slam Centre for 'allowing' U.S. mediation

The Left parties criticised the Union government for "allowing" U.S. mediation in the India-Pakistan tensions that erupted in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. "It is an avowedly accepted policy of our country that we settle our disputes bilaterally, without allowing any third-party intervention. Therefore, this situation requires authoritative clarification from the highest levels of our government," CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby said.

U.S., U.K. discuss tensions between India, Pakistan

The United States has discussed the current situation between India and Pakistan with the U.K., emphasising the need for both neighbours to maintain the "ceasefire". In a readout, State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed the issue with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Sunday. PTI

Left parties question Centre's silence on trolls attacking Misri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Left parties questioned the BJP-led government's silence on the cyberbullying of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who faced trolling on social media in the wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions.

In a post on X, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) shared an image of a report on Mr. Misri and his daughter being trolled online. "Why is the government silent? Shame on the trolls," the CPI(M) said. The party's Rajya Sabha floor leader, John Brittas, wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking urgent intervention. Mr. Brittas said that the Foreign Secretary was only articulating the considered stance of the Indian government.

"It is distressing that his articulation of policies and decisions, duly approved by the ruling dispensation, has been misconstrued and cynically weaponised to personally vilify him," Mr. Brittas wrote.

Mr. Misri locked his X profile after the cyberattack.

"The fact that the nation's seniormost diplomat is driven to digitally withdraw into a shell to escape abuse for mere adherence to governmental policy is both unprecedented and troubling. It sends an ominous signal about rapidly shrinking space for civil servants to function without fear or intimidation," Mr. Brittas added.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said it is the politics of hate that has led to this situation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi should speak out openly and address the problem. Mr. Misri is not a layman. He is a top-ranking bureaucrat; if he is not safe, then who is? This is a result of jingoism that the government has been fanning," he said.

CPI (Marxist-Leninist) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya asked on X, "Why should the Foreign Secretary be trolled for a decision taken by the PM? Is it because he thanked the Indian people for foiling the communal design of the terrorists?"

'Pakistani military used doctored footage to mislead its own people'

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Under control: Police personnel stand guard near a temporary check point in Srinagar on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit on Monday pointed out several "pro-Pakistan propaganda" posts, including the one in which the Pakistani Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations used "a small part" of an *Aaj Tak* news channel video to falsely claim that an Indian airfield had been destroyed.

"This is an attempt by Pakistan to mislead its own people by producing doctored footage as evidence. The actual story in the full video shows the news channel was talking about the destruction of a Pakistani airfield by Indian forces," the unit said in its X handle.

"Pakistani military in its briefing has shown a video clip aired on @IndiaTV news channel, implying that Indian channels have admitted to destruction of Indian air bases. This is an attempt by Pakistan to mislead its own people by editing and cleverly stitching multiple chunks of a larger video. The actual story in the full video shows footage of a Pakistani missile that was shot down," it said.

"Fake news peddled by Al Jazeera! @AJEnglish runs a false claim that an Indian female pilot is in Pakistan's custody," said the unit.

About the claims of artillery exchange along the Line of Control, the unit said the rumours were being spread to create panic.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600,),
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/001/2025 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date : 08.05.2025
Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Drugs for Palliative Care for the year 2024 - 2025.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. Drugs
1.	KMSCL/ED/P.Care/RC//2025/008 dtd. 09/05/2025	01

Last date and time of online uploading of tender - 02.06.2025, 5.00 pm.
Date and time of opening of Technical bid - 04.06.2025 11.30 am.
Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal www.etenders.kerala.gov.in. (Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Chief Engineer (IT,CR & CAPs), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_763728_1
Name of Work: SCADA/DMS Implementation in Kollam, Thrissur and Kannur (Group A Towns) for Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd (KSEBL) and Thrissur Corporation Electricity Department (TCED) in Kerala, under RDSS.
Pre-Bid Conference date & time : 17.05.2025 02.30 pm
Last Date of online submission of Bids: 07.06.2025 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E561/E-tender/2025

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Transmission Circle, Palakkad
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_759142_1 PAC:Rs. 8,33,62,797/-
Last Date: 17.05.2025 05.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer (P& SCM) Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_763015_1 PAC:Rs. 198,61,78,157/-
Last Date: 24.05.2025 03.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer (Distribution) North Malabar, Vydyuthi Bhavanam,Kannur
E Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_763286_1 PAC:Rs. 3,73,48,737/-
Last Date: 27.05.2025 03.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E560/E-tender/2025

भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, भरतपुर
क्रमांक :- लेखा/भ.वि.प्रा./2025-26/4571 दिनांक :- 02/05/2025
ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना सं. 02/2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, में उपयुक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विभागों में एए श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से कुल 15 कार्यो हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।
उक्त कार्यो का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्ते, अनुमानित लागत राशि, निविदा बेचने, प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेव साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitbharatpur एवं http://sppp.raj.nic.in portal पर देखा जा सकता है।
निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.raj.nic.in portal का अवलोकन करें।
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अधिशाषी अभियंता - प्रथम, भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, भरतपुर
राज.संवाद/सी/25/1866

RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED
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Tel: 0141-2740841, Fax: 0141-2740676, Email-ID : dgmpurchase.rsgsm@rajasthan.gov.in
NIB. No. RSGSM/Ropp Seals/RC/2025-26/Pur/ Dated :- 09/05/2025
SHORT NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for ROPP seals are invited from manufacturers. Interested bidders may submit their bids up to 2.00 p.m. of 19.05.2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; http://excise.rajasthan.gov.in/, departmental website. UBN:GSM2526GLRC00016
Raj.Samwad/C/25/2075 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of A.P. Undertaking)
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
NOTIFICATION for APGENCO e-Procurement
NIT No.610001963
APGENCO invites open tender for "Supply of 760 MT of High Chrome Grinding Media required for Ball Tube Mills BBD 4760 of Stage-II & III of Dr.NTTPS and stage-I of Dr.MVR RTPP" through APGENCO e-procurement platform.
Estimated Value of Contract : Rs.6,82,44,253/-
Schedule available date & time : From 19:00 Hrs onwards on 08.05.2025
Bid submission closing date & time : 26-05-2025 upto 13.00 Hrs
For further details visit www.apgenco.gov.in (or) (https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/ir/portal) Phone: 0866-2526808, 2526115, 2526139.
DIPR 4102PP/CL, Dt:12/05/2025

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
ABSTRACT / BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)
KPCL invites tenders from the contractors/ reputed companies/ firms/ agencies and who are having past experience for the following works:
1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2861 Dated: 07.05.2025 for High pressure water jet cleaning of condenser tubes in Unit 1 to 8 for a period of one year. EMD: Rs.1.06 Lakhs. Last date for submission of tender: 22.05.2025. Further details contact: Executive Engineer(TM-1), Mobile: 94815 47042. E-mail: eetm1rtps@gmail.com
2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2865 Dated: 07.05.2025 RTPS-Manual removal of HFO sediments/mud/debris etc. and cleaning of Oil wells at ODPH area and disposing into a designated Dumping yard. EMD: Rs.21,180/-. Last date for receipt of tenders: 26.05.2025, 17.00 Hrs. Further details contact: Executive Engineer (CAM)-2.
3) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT2868 Dated: 08.05.2025 Providing and erection of bottom ash hopper side doors and replacement of feed gate SS liners of Unit -7 AHP. Last date for receipt of tender: 22.05.2025, 16.00 Hrs. The tender document can be downloaded from e-proc. portal: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be had from the Executive Engineer (AHP-2), KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District. Mobile: 94495 96551.

INBRIEF

HC tells Nursing Council to act on plea to streamline NRTS

The Delhi High Court has directed the Indian Nursing Council to take a decision on a representation seeking the effective and upgraded functioning of the Nurses Registration and Tracking System (NRTS). The court's May 7 order came while disposing of a writ petition that highlighted deficiencies in the current system and called for its improvement. The NRTS is a digital platform meant to maintain a central database of registered nurses across India. The petitioner had urged the court to issue directions ensuring that the NRTS is streamlined and made fully operational in accordance with the standards laid out by the authorities.

Delete defamatory content against Minister, says HC

The Bombay High Court has ordered to take down six allegedly defamatory videos by two YouTubers, who are also journalists, targeting Maharashtra Water Resources Minister and senior BJP leader Girish Mahajan. Restraining the journalists from publishing or circulating similar content on their YouTube channels, a Single Bench of Justice Arif Doctor in an order passed on May 8, made available on Monday, noted that the videos were "prima facie defamatory". Senior advocate Ravi Kadam representing Mr. Mahajan said that six videos were uploaded on April 1, 8 and 14, making false, reckless and defamatory statements against the BJP leader. The court directed the YouTubers to immediately delete the six videos and directed Mr. Mahajan to serve a copy of the order on Google LLC to ensure compliance with the order.

Paddy, pulses acreage has increased this kharif season: Centre

Shivraj Chouhan reviews sowing of crops; Ministry says stock of rice and wheat is higher than buffer standard and there is no impact of heatwave

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The cultivation of paddy, pulses, coarse grains, and oilseeds has expanded this kharif season, the Agriculture Ministry said here on Monday, after a meeting chaired by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

As on May 2, paddy sowing has increased by 3.44 lakh hectares, compared with last year. The sowing of pulses increased by 2.20 lakh hectares.

In 2023-24, paddy acreage was 28.57 lakh hectares and in this season, it is 32.02 lakh hectares. "Sowing of pulses has increased to 20.67 lakh hectares in 2024-25 as compared to 18.47 lakh hectares in 2023-24," the Ministry said, adding that cultivation of popular pulses varieties such as *moong* and *urad* has also increased by 1.70 lakh hectares and 0.50 lakh hectares, respectively.

Senior officials informed Mr. Chouhan in the meeting that there has been an uptick in the sowing of onion and potato in 2024-25 as compared with 2023-24. "There has been an increase of 2.82 lakh hectares in onion sowing, which is an increase from 9.76 lakh hectares in 2023-24 to 12.58 lakh hectares in 2024-25. The sowing area of potato has also increased by 0.47 lakh hectares," the Ministry said in a statement. The sowing of tomato and onion is also going on smoothly in the current season, it said.

The Agriculture Ministry said paddy sowing has increased by 3.44 lakh hectares compared with last year. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Better water storage

The meeting also reviewed the weather conditions and the availability of water in reservoirs. "The total water storage situation is better than last year. The storage available in 161 reservoirs is 117% of the storage of the same period last year and 114% of the average storage of the last 10 years," the Ministry said.

On foodgrains, the Ministry said the actual stock of rice and wheat is more than the buffer standard. The actual stock of rice is 389.05 lakh tonnes against the buffer standard of 135.8 lakh tonnes. The actual stock of wheat is 177.08 lakh tonnes against the buffer standard of 74.6 lakh tonnes, it said. The harvest of wheat in almost all major wheat growing States is over and there was no impact of heatwave or high temperature.

The meeting also decided to launch a campaign to promote scientific agriculture.

Supreme Court grants relief to man in live-in relationship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An allegation of a false promise of marriage is untenable when two adults have engaged in a live-in relationship for years, the Supreme Court has held.

The judgment was based on an appeal filed by a man accused of having forcible sex with a woman he had entered into a settlement deed affirming their mutual love and intention to marry each other.

The Uttarakhand High Court had refused the man's plea to quash the case, following which he moved the top court.

"In our view, if two able-minded adults reside together as a live-in couple for more than a couple of years and cohabit with each other, a presumption would arise that they voluntarily chose that kind of a relationship fully aware of its consequences. Therefore, the allegation that such a relationship was entered into because there was a promise of marriage is in the circumstances unworthy of acceptance," the court observed.

Moreover, the court reasoned, in a long drawn live-in relationship, occasions may arise where partners express their desire to marry.

A decade or two earlier, live-in relationships might not have been common, the court said.

> If two adults reside together as a live-in couple for more than a couple of years, a presumption would arise that they voluntarily chose that kind of a relationship fully aware of its consequences
> **SUPREME COURT**

"But now more and more women are financially independent and have the capacity to take conscious decision of charting their life on their own terms. This financial freedom, *inter alia*, has led to proliferation of such live-in relationships. Therefore, when a matter of this nature comes to a court, it must not adopt a pedantic approach," the court said.

Rather, the court may, based on the length of such relationship and conduct of the parties, presume implied consent of the parties to be in such a relationship.

'Has India abandoned its policy on Kashmir?'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday claimed that there was a sense of "deceit, insult and shame" in the country at the sudden ceasefire and halt of military operations against Pakistan since the Indian armed forces had the upper hand in the conflict.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee office here, senior party leader and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel asked if India had abandoned its policy of not allowing anyone to "internationalise" the issue of Kashmir and reiterated the party's demand for a special session of Parliament to discuss the issues that had arisen from the recent Indo-Pak. conflict.

Special session

"The country is feeling cheated, and is ashamed at the way Donald Trump announced the ceasefire. That's why we are asking for a special session of Parliament," Mr. Baghel said.

He claimed that the public mood was to march into Pakistan-occupied J&K and reclaim the areas.

He also asked if Operation Sindoor could be called a success if the terrorists responsible for the Pahalgam attack were yet to be killed or apprehended.

'20 Maoists killed in encounter identified'

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Police on Monday said they have identified 20 Maoists who were killed in a recent operation along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary in Bijapur.

A senior police officer said 31 Maoists were killed in the operation that was launched on April 21 along the Karegutta hills.

"Of the 31 bodies recovered in the encounter that took place in the border areas of Bijapur in the past few days, 20 have been identified so far," said a police statement. It added that 11 bodies have been handed over to the families after completion of post-mortem examination.

Webinar held on chronic stress and heart health

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

As part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in association with *The Hindu*, held a webinar on "Stress: The silent killer of one's heart". The session featured three experts who explored the impact of chronic stress on heart health and shared practical strategies to manage it effectively.

Mohammed Jaffer Sherif, consultant cardiothoracic and vascular anesthaesia at Naruvi Hospitals, explained the science behind stress. It is a feeling of emotional or physical tension triggered by events or thoughts that cause frustration, anger, or nervousness.

"Addressing everyday stress proactively can make a big difference," he said. While chronic stress poses serious health risks, short-term stress can enhance focus, motivation, and resilience. He also cautioned the younger generation to be mindful of the growing impact of digital stress.

Ray George, consultant cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at Naruvi Hospitals, spoke on the signs, symptoms, and hidden dangers of stress. He explained the body's various responses to stress, noting, "Stress can cause an increased heart rate and low blood pressure." He also highlighted the long-term effects of stress, including metabolic and endocrine disruptions, increased risk of diabetes, weight gain, and obesity.

Vinayak Shukla, senior consultant cardiothoracic surgery, Naruvi Hospitals, spoke on "Managing stress for a healthier heart". Pursuing hobbies could shift attention away from daily stressors, he said and encouraged regular physical activity, such as yoga, walking, and running, to effectively manage stress. "It is about shifting your focus to moments of beauty, simplicity, and the everyday wonders of life," he said.

13 women and children killed in truck-trailer collision near Raipur

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Thirteen people – nine women and four children, including a six-month-old baby – were killed and 14 injured in a road accident in Kharora in Chhattisgarh, nearly 25 km from State capital Raipur, on Sunday night.

The victims were members of the same family and were returning from a function at a nearby village on a truck, which collided with a trailer truck carrying iron goods, the police said. The accident took place around 11.30 p.m.

"The trailer truck was loaded with iron goods that were protruding from both sides. The injured were given first aid at Community Health Center and Krishna Hospital in Kharora and then brought to Medical College in Raipur for better treatment," a police officer said.

The mangled remains of a trailer and a truck after they collided near Raipur on Sunday night. PTI

The driver of the trailer truck has been arrested and a case has been registered against him, said the officer, adding that both the vehicles were damaged in the accident.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai expressed condolence over the deaths and announced compensation of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the injured. "The news of 13 people dying and 14 getting injured in the horrific road accident in Kharora is extremely sad. Instructions have been given to the officials to provide proper treatment to the injured."

Relatives of the deceased said heavy trucks illegally ferry passengers and people often opt them due to affordability.

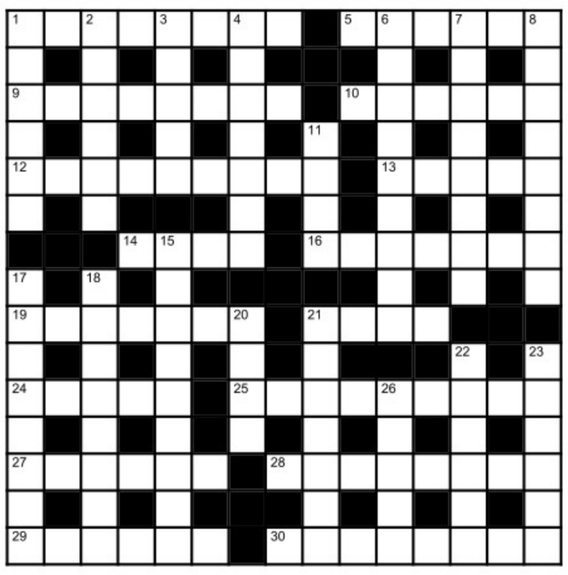
Booking a truck costs nearly a third of what a bus owner would charge. Even for daily commute, people use such trucks and small pick-up vans. On April 30, the State cabinet approved a scheme, Mukhyamantri Grameen Bus Suwidha Yojana, under which 100 routes have been identified where those running 18 to 42-seater vehicles would receive permits and facilities.

TH CROSSWORD + 14483

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Section of restaurant counter sadly messy, drab (5,3)
5 Group roasts nuts (6)
9 Marks setter's run, end to end (8)
10 Stock spinach and lettuce sandwiches (6)
12 Head of Enterprise overwhelmed by gloom, lost in space, gets navigational aid (6,3)
13 Animal in European territory (5)
14 Home without walls - basically in terrible neglect (4)
16 Honour son instead of daughter? Mean! (7)
19 Last complete question for the audience (4,3)
21 Parts of Ellora really exceptional (4)
24 Christmas clothes, very new (5)
25 Attractive shot - perhaps 4 scored? (6,3)
27 When troubled, one hug is adequate (6)
28 Most weighty article pinched by cunning thieves (8)
29 Cook hosting large celebration (6)
30 Alone KrisKross programmed, without tip from overseer (8)

Down

1 Like Scrooge, starting to save money - heartless fellow! (6)
2 Wash cover for computer (6)
3 Exercise to make well? (5)
4 Try a couple of times - mostly futile (7)
6 Supreme Court - one delivering justice for a street cleaner (9)
7 Do all fans primarily talk in ancient language? (3,5)
8 They come once a week performing duets, say (8)
11 Love to discharge work (4)
15 Spooner says "Crazy person may take up two jobs" (9)
17 Fiddles welcoming Harvard's top intellectuals (8)
18 Snake bites? Honey could be a home remedy (5,3)
20 Expression of irritation about a job (4)
21 Jazzy resort possessing high-class network devices (7)
22 A sick pet having case of colic in stomach (6)
23 Announced revised dates around end of August (6)
26 Party dance, securing victory (5)

SUDOKU

	3	4					9	
8		9						
1					3		7	
		1			6			5
	8		3		5		2	
5			8			6		
	5		7					9
						4		3
	2					7	6	

No.SS6518 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	6	5	2	4	9	8	3
2	8	4	3	7	9	6	1	5
9	3	5	1	6	8	4	2	7
7	4	8	9	3	1	5	6	2
3	1	2	6	8	5	7	4	9
5	6	9	7	4	2	8	3	1
4	5	1	2	9	6	3	7	8
6	9	7	8	1	3	2	5	4
8	2	3	4	5	7	1	9	6

FAITH

Divine qualities of Lakshmi

Acharya Ramanuja praises the divine qualities of Goddess Mahalakshmi in his work "Saranagathi Gadyam." She is the Mother of the Universe and the interceder for approaching Her divine consort, Lord Narayana. She is not separated and ever present with the Lord (*Nithya Anapayini*). If Lord Narayana is the Karpaga tree, she will be like the climber twined with it. She is full of grace and affection, and we have no other resort except Her (*Asaranya saranyam*). She is denoted by the word Sri. Using the word Sri at the beginning of writing letters to relatives has been a common practice. It symbolises invoking the blessings of the Goddess. Alavandar narrates the qualities of the Goddess in his composition "Chatusloki."

Velukkudi Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that the attributes of the Goddess can be explained in three ways. She takes refuge in God and is an asylum for all of us. All derive good benefits from Her, and She derives from God. She lends Her ears to our appeal and makes God listen.

She adds divine lustre to God like a shining moon against dark clouds. Fragrance cannot be separated from flowers. She adds divine fragrance and is inseparable from God.

Parasara Bhattar says in Gunarathna Kosa that seven deities are responsible for love and affection, wealth, prosperity, intellect, handsomeness, boldness and fulfilling desires. They all wait for the Goddess's permission to extend their blessings upon us. She is blemishless, and She exists for the sake of the Lord. She does not consider our mistakes but recommends to God highlighting even a single good deed, however small. She never lets us down.

INBRIEF

Ather loss narrows to ₹234 cr. on better gross margins

Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy, which made its debut on stock exchanges early this month, on Monday reported an 18% drop in losses to ₹234.40 crore for the March quarter aided by better gross margins. The company had posted a loss of ₹283.30 crore in the year-ago period. Income from operations rose 29.5% to ₹676.1 crore from ₹523.4 crore a year ago, it said. For 2024-25, Ather posted a net loss of ₹812 crore compared with ₹1,059.70 crore a year ago. PTI

NCLAT dismisses insolvency plea against PepsiCo India

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has dismissed an insolvency plea against PepsiCo India Holdings after observing that IBC provisions cannot be turned into a debt-recovery proceeding and upheld an NCLT order. The NCLAT held that the insolvency plea from SNJ Synthetics was not maintainable as the principal amount of the debt claimed from PepsiCo had already been repaid and only a disputed claim for interest remained. PTI

Shriram General Insurance Q4 profit up 8% to ₹130 crore

Shriram General Insurance on Monday reported an 8% rise in Q4 profit to ₹130 crore. The company reported a post-tax profit of ₹121 crore in the year-ago period. The gross direct premium income of the company improved to ₹1,099 crore against ₹876 crore in the same quarter a year ago, registering a growth of 25%. For the financial year ended March 2025, the company posted a 13% increase in net profit to ₹515 crore from ₹455 crore in the previous year. PTI

'U.S.-China pact a mixed bag for India'

While some trade experts say the temporary trade agreement will open up export opportunities in sectors India is strong, others argue that the investments which had been coming in due to high tariffs on China could now return to that country

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Trade experts are divided on how the temporary trade agreement between the U.S. and China would affect India. Some argue that the deal carries opportunities for India, especially in sectors such as pharmaceutical APIs, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, organic chemicals, and IT-enabled services.

Others, however, say investments that had been coming in due to high tariffs on China could now return to that country.

In a significant thawing of trade relations between the world's two largest economies, the U.S. and China on Monday issued a joint statement saying they would temporarily substantially walk back the tariff escalation the two countries had levied on each other over the last few months.

"The reduction in tariffs will likely result in a surge of U.S.-China bilateral trade in high-value segments such as electronics, machinery, and chemicals," S.C. Ralhan, President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said.

"However, India can leverage this shift to strengthen exports in sectors that remain relatively insulated from U.S.-China trade, such as pharmaceutical APIs, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, organic chemicals, and IT-enabled services, etc.," he added.

Former Director General of Foreign Trade Ajay Srivastava, however, pointed out that this deal in its current form does not address the underlying issues such as the high trade imbalance between the two countries, which was U.S. President Donald Trump's main grouse in the first place. "As the tariff gap narrows, companies that had shifted production to places like Vietnam, India, or Mexico may return to China," Mr. Srivastava said.

Other trade economists say that lower tariffs between the U.S. and China could result in a reprieve from the 'dumping' of Chinese goods that countries like India and Vietnam have faced, and have sought to protect themselves against.

Boon or bane?

The U.S. and China on Monday issued a statement saying they would temporarily substantially walk back the tariff escalation

- India can strengthen exports in sectors that remain relatively insulated from U.S.-China trade, says FIEO's Ralhan
- Deal in its current form does not address the high trade imbalance between the two countries, says ex-DG of foreign trade Ajay Srivastava

Tata Steel Q4 net profit more than doubles to ₹1,301 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd. has posted a more than two-fold increase in Q4 consolidated net profit to ₹1,301 crore from ₹611 crore in the year-earlier period.

The company's revenue from operations during the period declined 5% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹55,707 crore.

For FY25, the company registered a net profit of ₹3,421 crore compared with a net loss of ₹4,437 crore in the previous year.

Revenue from operations declined 5% to ₹2,16,840 crore. The Board of Directors recommended a dividend of ₹3.60 per ordinary (equity) share of face value of ₹1 each.

T.V. Narendran

"FY2025 has been an important transition year for Tata Steel with significant developments across operating geographies," said managing director and chief executive officer T.V. Narendran.

"We commissioned India's largest blast furnace at Kalinganagar, safely decommissioned two blast furnaces in the U.K., and achieved production levels near rated capacity in The Netherlands," he said.

"India deliveries were best ever at about 21 million tonnes and were up 5% YoY aided by a smooth ramp up of the new blast furnace at Kalinganagar and capacity utilisation close to 100% at the remaining operations," Mr. Narendran added.

China's Ant Group to sell 4% stake in Paytm for $242 mn

Reuters

Ant will sell the stake at ₹809.75 per share, a discount of 6.5% to Paytm's Monday closing price

China's Ant Group will sell a 4% stake in Indian payments firm Paytm for $242 million, a term sheet seen by *Reuters* on Monday showed.

Ant, an affiliate of Chinese conglomerate Alibaba Group , will sell the stake at ₹809.75 per share, a discount of 6.5% to Paytm's closing price on Monday.

It was not immediately clear who the buyers would be.

Goldman Sachs India Securities and Citigroup Global Markets India will lead the sale, the term sheet showed. Paytm and Ant Group did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Paytm has seen a spate of selldowns in the past two years, including the exit of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Japan's SoftBank Group, according to exchange data.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,430	3.74
Gold	96,550	-3.40
Brent oil	65.19	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2425.30	174.30
Adani Ports	1362.10	55.80
Apollo Hosp	6926.00	204.00
Asian Paints	2356.40	56.80
Axis Bank	1203.00	51.90
Bajaj Auto	8039.50	357.00
Bajaj Finserv	2050.40	80.40
Bajaj Finance	9018.50	377.50
Bharat Elec	322.80	6.95
Bharti Airtel	1870.80	22.40
Cipla	1511.60	31.60
Coal India	395.50	13.10
Dr Reddys Lab	1195.60	39.70
Eicher Motors	5520.00	196.00
Eternal Ltd.	239.50	12.36
Grasim Ind	2742.80	108.00
HCL Tech	1670.30	100.90
HDFC Bank	1957.20	67.50
HDFC Life	734.60	21.00
Hero MotoCorp	3984.90	131.00
Hindalco	651.95	24.80
Hind Unilever	2382.50	49.60
ICICI Bank	1448.50	59.60
IndusInd Bank	788.50	-29.70
Infosys	1626.90	119.30
ITC	435.50	11.95
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	262.90	14.55
JSW Steel	1005.20	48.20
Kotak Bank	2145.00	41.90
L&T	3587.20	143.30
M&M	3104.70	122.60
Maruti Suzuki	12616.00	366.00
NestleIndia	2383.80	58.40
NTPC	348.55	13.80
ONGC	244.02	9.06
PowerGrid Corp	309.05	9.75
Reliance Ind	1436.50	59.30
SBI Life	1751.50	51.70
State Bank	801.65	22.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	645.95	44.50
Sun Pharma	1686.20	-58.60
TataConsumerProduct	1145.60	31.90
Tata Motors	720.80	12.30
Tata Steel	151.63	8.85
TCS	3620.40	180.10
Tech Mahindra	1573.10	79.40
Titan	3562.90	52.60
Trent Ltd.	5441.00	328.00
UltraTech Cement	11736.00	372.00
Wipro	257.28	15.27

PVR INOX posts ₹125.3 cr. loss

Leading cinema exhibitor PVR INOX on Monday reported narrowing of its consolidated net loss to ₹125.3 crore FY25's March quarter. Revenue from operations fell marginally to ₹1,249.8 crore. PTI

LTIMindtree bags $450 mn multi-year agri-company AI deal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

LTIMindtree on Monday said it secured a $450 million multi-year deal from a leader in the global agribusiness sector.

This deal, spread across seven years, was the largest in the history of LTIMindtree, the firm said.

As a part of this deal, LTIMindtree would implement an AI-powered operating model to deliver application management, infrastructure support, and cybersecurity services, for the client whose name was not disclosed.

According to a company communique, this comprehensive suite of future-ready IT services, built on platforms such as SAP S/4HANA, ServiceNow, Microsoft Azure, as well as proprietary AI frameworks, is aimed at enhancing the client's operational efficiency, scalability, and global growth.

LTIMindtree would implement AI-powered operating model.

"Securing this large deal marks a pivotal milestone," said Venu Lambu, CEO (designate) and whole-time director, LTIMindtree.

More Retail mulls ₹2,000-cr. IPO in '26 to expand, cut debt

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The fund-raise plan will be mostly via fresh capital infusion, with no significant OFS component

Amazon and Samara Capital-backed supermarket chain More Retail is planning to raise about ₹2,000 crore through an initial public offer (IPO), which is expected to hit the market in the calendar year 2026, a top company official said.

The proposed fund-raise plan will be mostly through fresh capital infusion, with no significant offer-for-sale (OFS) component as promoters Samara Capital and Amazon, who hold 51% and 48% stakes respectively, are unlikely to offload shares, he said, adding the balance stake is held by family offices.

"We are looking at an IPO in 12-18 months, depending on valuation and market conditions. We hope to raise ₹2,000 crore, and the current promoter dilution could be about 10%," said More Retail MD Vinod Nambiar.

He said the funds will be used primarily to expand the store count to 3,000 by 2030 and make the company nearly debt-free.

The current debt stands at about ₹500 crore consisting of loans and non-convertible debentures (NCDs), according to the company official.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
ESTATE OFFICE, GKVK, BENGALURU-560 065

NO. EO/TN/1/2025-26, DATED: 2.5.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1 from the registered KPWD/PWD/Contractors and reputed firms for the works Sl. No.1 to 5. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date and time for uploading is **27.5.2025 upto 4.00 P.M**. The Technical Bid will be opened on **29.5.2025 at 10.30 A.M**. The Financial Bid will be opened on **2.6.2025 at 10.30 A.M**. For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/ 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

Sd/-
Estate Officer

DIPR/CP/605/AKAR/2025-26

THE CAMPCO LTD
HEAD OFFICE : MANGALURU

E-Commerce Website
Design & Development

We are inviting proposals from experienced and qualified vendors for the design, development, and deployment of an E-Commerce website on the Shopify platform for our organization.

Timeline:
Please submit your proposal on or before **25th May 2025.**
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For more details, please visit our websites:
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www.campcochocolates.com

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BCRC seeks remuneration review of Bank Mitras as costs increase

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Business Correspondent Resource Council (BCRC), the industry body representing Bank Mitras, has appealed to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance to review the remuneration of Bank Mitras and sought subsidy on their infrastructure cost.

Recently, office bearers of BCRC met Bhartruhari Mahtab, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Finance and gave a representation to him.

Since Bank Mitras' remuneration is by way of commissions from banks the rates for which were set in 2014, a review has been sought.

Bank Mitras' remuneration was set in the year 2014.

"The ATM interoperability charges have been recently revised to ₹19, on similar lines, commission structure for AePS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System) which is used in rural banking, may also be revised," the BCRC said.

Plea for panel

It urged that a remuneration review committee comprising the Department of Financial Services, financial institutions, NPCI & industry bodies may be set up for a review.

Considering Bank Mitras faced significant expenses for essential technology upgrades such as laptops, passbook printers and biometric devices, the BCRC asked the Commission to subsidise supporting infrastructure costs through RBI's Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF).

"The PIDF is designed to subsidise payment infrastructure in underserved areas and direct PIDF subsidies would be crucial to offset these costs," the BRC said.

For systemic strengthening, it sought clear accountability norms to delineate roles of banks and Bank Mitras in cases of fraud, 'so that genuine agents are not penalised for systemic failures.'

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aditya S/O, K Lakshminarayan R/o 14/2, 11th A Cross, Sampangiramnagar, Bangalore -560027 have changed my name to Aditya L.

I, Rahman Tabassum D/O, Mohammad Liyaquate Ali Rahman R/o H. No. 18, Sochal Road, Sixmile, Khanapara, Dispur, Kamrup Metro, Assam- 781022 have changed my name to Tabassum Rahman for all purposes

I, SYED Ameenullah Mazhar S/o Syed Hafizullah R/a 7/8, 10th Main Vasanthnagar Bangalore-560052 have changed my name to Syed Ameenullah vide affidavit dated 12/05/2025 sworn before Notary S.Samuel Solomon, Bangalore.

I, GOUTHAM Hosakote Ramesh Jayalakshmi, aged 40 years, S/o. Ramesh Hosakote Venkataramanappa, Resident at Sagara Nilaya, 7th Cross, Kanaka Nagara, M. V. Extension, Hosakote, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru-562114, have changed my name to Gautham Hosakote Ramesh Jayalakshmi, Vide affidavit dated: 28.04.2025 before notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/623/2025-26 Date : 08-05-2025.

Short term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (KPPP). Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions or if recalled, tenderers can view in KPP portal. Separate notification in this regard will not be published.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
	5054-(Plan)-Improvements to State Highways :	
1)	PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT19202	300.00
	3054-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of State Highways :	
2)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21633	200.00
3)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21634	200.00
	8443-Deposit Grants :	
4)	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21587	200.00

The Tender Events are as under:
1) Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal) **14-05-2025 upto 12.00 Hours**
2) Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal **17-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hours**
3) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids. **19-05-2025 at 11.00 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/96/KSMCA/2025-26

GAZA CITY

Hamas frees U.S.-Israeli hostage ahead of Trump's regional visit

REUTERS

Ahead of a regional visit by U.S. President Donald Trump, Hamas said on Monday that its armed wing, the (Ezzedine) Al-Qassam Brigades, had released a U.S.-Israeli hostage, with a source close to the Islamist movement adding that Edan Alexander was handed over to the Red Cross in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis. AFP

DEPEYIN

20 children among 22 killed in Myanmar junta's strikes on school

AFP

A Myanmar junta airstrike hit a school Monday killing 22 people, including 20 children, despite a humanitarian ceasefire called after a devastating earthquake. The strike hit a school in the village of Oe Htein Kwin — around 100 km northwest of the epicentre of the March 28 quake — at about 10:00 a.m. (0900 IST). AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump says it would be 'stupid' to turn down Qatari jet offer

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday dismissed ethics concerns over his plans to receive a new Air Force One plane as a gift from Qatar. "It's a great gesture," he said when asked if Qatar would expect anything in exchange. "I could be a stupid person to say 'no we don't want a free, very expensive airplane.'" AFP

VATICAN CITY

Pope seeks release of journalists, affirms gift of free speech, press

GETTY IMAGES

Pope Leo XIV called for the release of imprisoned journalists and affirmed the "precious gift of free speech and the press" in an audience with some of the 6,000 journalists who were in Rome to cover his election as the first U.S. pontiff. He asked journalists to use words for peace, to reject war and to give voice to the voiceless. AP

Starmer moots law to curb migration to U.K.

The new rules would in some cases double the time to permanent residence from five to 10 years, raise the English language standard for migrants and close the social care visa route; every area of immigration — work, family, and study — will be tightened up so we have more control, says PM

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Warning that the U.K. was at risk of becoming an "island of strangers", Prime Minister Keir Starmer, announced a tightening up of immigration policy on Monday, as his Labour Party released a White Paper on migration to be tabled in Parliament.

The new rules, if enacted into law, would in some cases double the time to permanent residence from five to 10 years, raise the English language standards for immigrants and close the social care visa route. The rules will impact Indians living and working in the U.K., many of whom are on visas which are the focus of the White Paper.

"Every area of the immigration system – work, family, and study – will be tightened up so we have more control," Mr. Starmer said, as he promised a "selective and fair" migration system.

The White Paper said the Government would end the recruitment of overseas workers for social care jobs, keeping extensions of visas for individuals already here open until 2028 and permitting in-country switching for those already here. The Government also intends to increase the threshold for skilled-worker visas to the graduate level and tighten English language requirements for all migrants and their dependents. The proposal also suggested increasing the availability of visas for high-talent routes.

Old wine: Keir Starmer said he would 'take back control', using the rallying cry of those who had championed Brexit. REUTERS

The announcement comes some two weeks after the nativist Reform U.K. party of Nigel Farage saw significant gains in local elections across England. The electoral verdict is being read, in part, as an indictment of the Conservative and Labour parties on the cost and standard of living as well as immigration.

Mr. Starmer said his Government would "take back control", using the rallying cry of those who championed Brexit as a means to end the free movement of people across internal EU borders.

"Because what followed from the previous Government, starting with the people who used that slogan, was the complete opposite between 2019 and 2023," Mr. Starmer said, referring to record-high immigration under the former Conservative Government. Net migration was over 906,000 in the year ending June 2023, some four times the level it was in June 2019. Mr. Starmer committed on Monday to "significantly" lowering the numbers by the next election (2029) but did not provide a specific target.

Mr. Starmer also denied that the immigration controls were a political strategy. "People who like politics will try to make this all about politics," he said.

"When will Keir Starmer learn that no matter how good his Nigel Farage impression gets, it won't save him from wipeout at the hands of Reform?" Green Party co-founder Carla Denyer said on X.

Prosecutors blame Hasina for last year's deadly crackdown

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

An investigation has found the ousted Bangladesh PM culpable in at least five charges

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina masterminded a deadly crackdown on mass protests that prompted her ouster last year, prosecutors at a domestic war crimes tribunal said on Monday.

Up to 1,400 people died in July 2024 when Ms. Hasina's government launched a brutal campaign to silence the opposition, according to the United Nations. Ms. Hasina lives in self-imposed exile in India, where she fled by helicopter, and has defied an arrest warrant from Dhaka over charges of crimes against humanity.

"The investigation team has found Sheikh Hasina culpable in at least five charges," Mohammad Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor at Bangladesh's domestic International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), told reporters.

Tajul Islam said the prosecution had submitted its first report to be presented at the court set to try Ms. Hasina and two of her aides – former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-police chief Abdullah Al Mamun.

Taiwan holds first live-fire of U.S. rocket systems

Agence France-Presse
TAIWAN

Taiwan conducted on Monday its first live-firing of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) purchased from the U.S., as the self-ruled island upgrades its capabilities to repel a potential Chinese attack.

The truck-mounted units can launch multiple precision-guided rockets at the same time, and has been used by Ukraine against Russia. Taiwan's Army launched rockets from the HIMARS at the Jiupeng base in Pingtung.

Russian drones strike Ukraine as Kremlin turns down a truce proposal but promises talks

Associated Press
KYIV

Moscow is silent to Zelenskyy's challenge for Putin to attend Thursday's Turkiye talks in person

Russia n military launched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in night-time attacks, the Ukrainian air force said on Monday, after the Kremlin effectively rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in the more than three-year war, but reiterated that it would take part in possible peace talks later this week without preconditions.

There was no direct response from the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's challenge for Russian leader Vladimir Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace talks in Turkiye on Thursday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday refused to say who might travel to Istanbul from the Russian side.

"Overall, we are determined to seriously look for ways to achieve a long-term peaceful settlement. That is all," Mr. Peskov said.

Menawhile, Mr. Zelenskyy said on Monday he wanted U.S. counterpart Donald Trump to join peace talks with Russia in Turkiye. Mr. Trump told reporters earlier he would go if he "thought it would be helpful".

The U.S. and European governments are making a concerted push to stop the fighting, which has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides.

After four decades, PKK to disband as part of peace initiative with Turkiye

Associated Press
ANKARA

The PKK Kurdish militant group announced on Monday that it is disbanding and renouncing armed conflict as part of a new peace initiative with Turkiye, ending four decades of hostilities.

The move by the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which promises to put an end to one of the longest insurgencies in West Asia and could have significant impact in Turkiye, Syria and Iraq, was announced by a media outlet close to the group. It comes days after the PKK convened a party congress in northern Iraq.

Turning point: PKK Executive Committee member Duran Kalkan delivering a speech at the 12th Party Congress in northern Iraq. AFP

In February, PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group to convene a congress and formally decide to disband and disarm.

The call by Mr. Ocalan, 76, who continues to wield significant influence in the Kurdish movement despite his 25-year imprisonment, marked a pivotal step toward ending the decades-long conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since the 1980s.

Building on the momentum, the PKK announced a unilateral ceasefire on March 1, but attached conditions, including the creation of a legal framework for peace talks.

The conflict between Turkiye and the PKK has spilled over into northern Iraq and northern Syria, with Turkiye carrying out numerous incursions into the neighbouring regions. The PKK is listed as a terror group by Turkiye and its Western allies.

Sport

Daneshvar beats Karthikeyan

Press Trust of India
AL AIN (UAE)

Indian Grandmaster Murali Karthikeyan went down fighting to Iran's Bardiya Daneshvar in the sixth round of the Asian individual open chess championship here on Monday to slip to joint third.

Daneshvar emerged as the sole leader on 5.5 points.

In the women's section, the highest-rated Indian Vantika Agrawal took another stride forward at the expense of Afruza Khamdamova of Uzbekistan to take her tally to five points. P.V. Nandhidhaa also reached five points, defeating Tokhirjonova Gulrukhbegum of Uzbekistan.

Date	Teams	Venue	Time
May 17	RCB vs KKR	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
May 18	RR vs PBKS	Jaipur	3.30 p.m.
May 18	DC vs GT	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
May 19	LSG vs SRH	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
May 20	CSK vs RR	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
May 21	MI vs DC	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
May 22	GT vs LSG	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
May 23	RCB vs SRH	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
May 24	PBKS vs DC*	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
May 25	GT vs CSK	Ahmedabad	3.30 p.m.
May 25	SRH vs KKR	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
May 26	PBKS vs MI	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
May 27	LSG vs RCB	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
PLAYOFFS			
May 29	Qualifier 1	TBC	7.30 p.m.
May 30	Eliminator	TBC	7.30 p.m.
June 1	Qualifier 2	TBC	7.30 p.m.
June 3	Final	TBC	7.30 p.m.

*PBKS-DC match to be replayed in full

Ancelotti. AFP

Ancelotti to take over as Brazil coach

Reuters
MADRID

Carlo Ancelotti will become Brazil national team manager after leaving Real Madrid at the end of the season, the Brazilian FA said on Monday.

"He is the greatest coach in history and now he is at the helm of the greatest national team on the planet," said the CBF president Ednaldo Rodrigues in a statement.

Stearns gets past Osaka

ITALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Naomi Osaka was eliminated from the Italian Open on Monday after being beaten by Peyton Stearns 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(4) as her struggles for form at the top level continued.

Osaka is another big name that American Stearns has beaten in Rome after also knocking out fifth seed Madison Keys in the previous round.

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner cruised into the last 16 after comfortably beating lucky loser Jesper de Jong 6-4, 6-2 in front of a delighted crowd. The World No. 1 set up a clash with Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo in the next round. .

On a roll: Stearns beat a second big name in Osaka, having also knocked out fifth seed Keys. AP

Carlos Alcaraz saw off Laslo Djere 7-6(2), 6-2 on Sunday.

The results: Men: Third round: Minaur bt Dellien 6-4, 6-4; Paul bt Machac 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-4; Mensik bt Marozsan 6-4, 7-6(2); Hurkacz bt Giron 6-3, 1-6, 6-1; Cerundolo bt Ofner 6-2, 6-4; Sinner bt De Jong 6-4, 6-2; Munar bt Korda 6-4, 6-2. Alcaraz bt Djere 7-6(2), 6-2; Khachanov bt Passaro 6-3, 6-0.

Women: Fourth round: Stearns bt Osaka 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(4); Shnaider bt Mertens 6-2, 6-3; Paolini bt Ostapenko 7-5, 6-2; Gauff bt Raducanu 6-1, 6-2; Svitolina bt Collins 6-4, 6-2; Andreeva bt Tauson 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Third round: Andreeva bt Noskova 6-1, 7-5; Qinwen bt Frech 6-3, 6-2; Tauson bt Navarro 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Indians win 19 medals at Fazza Para Badminton

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Indian shuttlers finished with a haul of 19 medals (one gold, four silver and 14 bronze) at the 6th Fazza Para Badminton International tournament here.

Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy claimed gold after getting a walkover from Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Wong Chun Yim SH6 men's doubles final on Sunday. Umesh Vikram Kumar won silver in standing Lower SL3 singles and doubles as did Hardik Makkar and Ruthick Ragupathi in Standing Upper SU5 doubles.

MEMORABLE

Tendulkar recollects Kohli's special gift on retirement day

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

You offered to gift me a thread from your late father. It was something too personal for me to accept, but the gesture was heartwarming and has stayed with me ever since. While I may not have a thread to offer in return, please know that you carry my deepest admiration and very best wishes — Sachin Tendulkar.

BOLD

'Kohli symbolised the unapologetic India of the 21st century'

FILE PHOTO

Kohli, the incandescent heart of Indian cricket, did not just score runs. He redefined expectations, challenged conventions, and symbolised the self-assured, unapologetic India of the 21st century. He was a snarling warrior in whites, never giving an inch, always demanding more — Greg Chappell in his column for *ESPNCricinfo*.

PIONEER

Kohli's India competed overseas with aggression, belief: Binny

FILE PHOTO

Kohli will be remembered alongside the finest to have graced Tests. What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format. His leadership marked a shift in how India competed overseas — with aggression, belief, and a refusal to settle — BCCI president Roger Binny.

TORCH-BEARER

Kohli placed the purest form of the game back on a pedestal: BCCI

FILE PHOTO

Virat's departure from the longest format brings to a close a chapter that not only elevated Indian Cricket on the global stage but also rekindled public passion for Test cricket in an era dominated by limited-overs formats. He placed the purest form of the game back on a pedestal — Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Kohli walks into the sunset after a storied Test career

The 36-year-old, India's best skipper in the red-ball format, finishes fourth in the run charts behind Tendulkar, Dravid and Gavaskar; he captained the country to a record 40 wins, built the side in his mould and made it a force to reckon with

CRICKET

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Just five days after Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket in an Instagram story, Virat Kohli followed suit with a post on the social media platform to bring an end to a decorated Test career.

On the cards

The 36-year-old's announcement seemed to be on the cards after it emerged that he had told the selectors of his wish to step away from the longest format ahead of India's five-Test series in England beginning on June 20.

Having made his Test debut in 2011, Kohli amassed 9230 runs in 123 matches at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries and 31 fifties.

While he reached phenomenal heights as a No. 4 batter from 2016 to 2019, in particular, his slide in the last five years was steep.

Since January 2020, he averaged 30.72 in 39 Tests with just three tons.

The final straw was the five-Test tour of Australia, where he only mustered 190 runs in nine innings despite scoring a century in the second innings of the first Test in Perth.

Though Kohli hasn't managed to join the elusive 10,000-run club - Sunil Gavaskar (10122), Sachin Tendulkar (15921) and Rahul Dravid (13265) are the only Indians to have achieved that feat - he leaves behind an enduring legacy as a Test cricketer.

Emphasis on fitness

Besides racking up all the runs that he did over the course of a 14-year career, he also played an instrumental role as captain from 2014 to 2022, placing a strong emphasis on fitness and developing a core of potent pace bowlers. With 40 victories in 68 Tests as India captain, he is the country's most successful skipper.

Among his most memorable achievements as a leader will be India's first-ever series triumph on Australian soil in 2018-19.

Now that Kohli and Rohit will no longer don the whites, the selectors will have to repose their faith in a young, inexperienced batting unit as the team embarks on a challenging tour of England.

A giant in whites

Kohli, the longest format's biggest crusader, leaves behind a lasting legacy

Kohli's purple patch in 2016-17 — he piled up **1,252 runs** — is the highest by an Indian in a single home season. His efforts ensured series wins over England, New Zealand, and Australia

OVERALL

Matches	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
123	210	9230	254*	46.85	30/31

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Home	**55**	**87**	**4336**	**254***	**55.58**	**14/13**
Away	66	119	4774	200	41.51	16/18
Neutral	2	4	120	49	30.00	0/0
As captain	**68**	**113**	**5864**	**254***	**54.80**	**20/18**
Not as captain	**55**	**97**	**3366**	**186**	**37.40**	**10/13**

BY OPPONENT

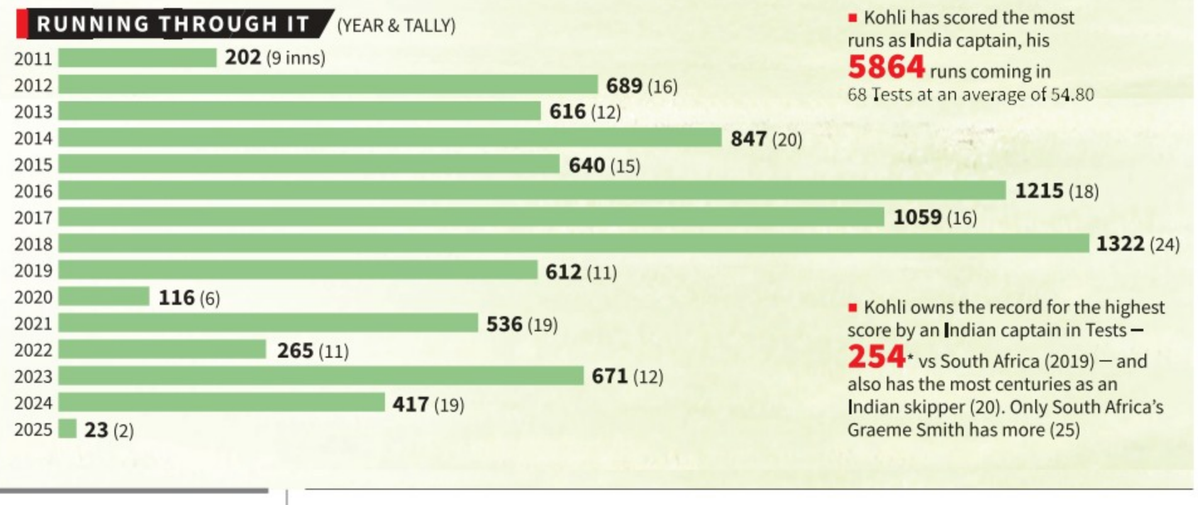
	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Australia	30	53	**2232**	186	43.76	**9/5**
England	28	50	**1991**	235	42.36	**5/9**
South Africa	16	28	**1408**	254*	54.15	**3/5**
West Indies	16	21	**1019**	200	48.52	**3/6**
New Zealand	14	27	**959**	211	38.36	**3/4**
Sri Lanka	11	18	**1085**	243	67.81	**5/2**
Bangladesh	8	13	**536**	204	48.72	**2/0**

He scored the most runs in a calendar year by an Indian five times (2012, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2023) in his career

TONS OF DOUBLE

200	211	235	204	213	243	254*
vs **West Indies**, *North Sound*, **2016**	vs **New Zealand**, *Indore*, **2016**	vs **England**, *Mumbai*, **2016**	vs **Bangladesh**, *Hyderabad*, **2017**	vs **Sri Lanka**, *Nagpur*, **2017**	vs **Sri Lanka**, *Delhi*, **2017**	vs **South Africa**, *Pune*, **2019**

RUNNING THROUGH IT (YEAR & TALLY)



- Kohli has scored the most runs as India captain, his **5864** runs coming in 68 Tests at an average of 54.80
- Kohli owns the record for the highest score by an Indian captain in Tests — **254*** vs South Africa (2019) — and also has the most centuries as an Indian skipper (20). Only South Africa's Graeme Smith has more (25)

Team India will sorely miss lionheart Kohli

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Great players offer hope and make us believe in sporting miracles. For a large part of his Test career, Virat Kohli was all this and much more. Having called time on his association with cricket's longest format on Monday, an end of an era is obvious for Indian cricket.

A quartet of significant batters will no longer feature together in Tests. Last week, Rohit Sharma bowed out. The selectors have seemingly moved on from Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, and now Kohli has quit too. The dual exit of Rohit and Kohli mirrors the twilight march of Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman in 2012.

Kohli the batter kept pursuing runs against all odds. Tougher the battle, the bigger his heart was. Having taken first strike in whites in 2011, the Delhi lad took a while to settle but he was here for the long haul.

Longevity

The longevity is evident in his numbers: 123 Tests, 9230 runs, 30 tons and an average of 46.85. The last statistic was over 50, the gold-standard for great batters, but dipped as his form waned. However, his fitness and fielding remained top-notch all through.

During the last Australia tour, after a century in the first Test at Perth, he tapered off. Yet, in the nets, he did multiple stints, keen to iron out the chinks. Through his career, he had all the shots. The cover-drive was from heaven and the swivel-pulls were adrenaline-soaked.

It is never easy to step in at No. 4 for India, a spot made special by Sachin Tendulkar, but Kohli carved his space. Much like Javed Miandad, who hustled his singles and twos and quickly moved to his 30s, Kohli was the eager-beaver. Get the eye in, stay busy, dominate and accumulate, was his template.

He was evangelical about his love for Tests and it was evident in the manner in which he batted and in the way he led India. The 40 triumphs in the 68 Tests he marshalled his unit, the most by an Indian skipper, reveals a captain always moving the game forward.

Strong bond

He forged a strong bond with coach Ravi Shastri, and India soared.

Thrown a challenge like when James Anderson tested him in 2014, he neutralised the pacer in 2018. However, over the last few seasons, a propensity to flex outside the off-stump undid him. Kohli tried hard but time and tide wait for none.

To play in ODIs

At 36 and in the blue shade, he will turn up in ODIs, besides playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL. In Tests, India will miss his presence and boisterous energy. To finish fourth among Indian Test run-getters after Tendulkar, Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar, is special. Kohli will be missed.

Influential: Kohli's boisterous energy was infectious. AFP

Virat's goodbye message

It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life.

There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever.

As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way.

I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile.

#269, signing off.

You played the way greats do

A modern-day giant and a fantastic ambassador for Test cricket in every way
RAVI SHASTRI

While the world celebrates your cricketing brilliance and records, what I admire most is your unwavering commitment to fitness and the sacrifices you've made behind the scenes
SANATH JAYASURIYA

Test cricket brought out the fighter in you and you gave it everything! You played the way greats do, with hunger in your heart, fire in your belly and pride in every stride
YUVRAJ SINGH

You not only lit up grounds with your incandescent batting, you remained a great advocate for Test cricket
V.V.S. LAXMAN

A man with lion's passion! Will miss u, cheeks....
GAUTAM GAMBHIR

The intensity, the passion, the fight – you gave it your all, every single time
RISHABH PANT

Congratulations on a great Test career. You've been a true ambassador of the game...
ANIL KUMBLE

Virat, we've shared that era... faced the grind together, lived the long days of Test cricket with pride. Your batting in whites is special — not just in numbers, but in intent, intensity, and inspiration.
HARBHAJAN SINGH

From watching you bat when I was 13 and wondering how someone could bring that kind of energy to the field, you've not just inspired a generation, you've reshaped the mindset of millions
SHUBMAN GILL

Kohli changed the culture of Indian cricket: childhood coach

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In Virat Kohli's storied journey to the high table of Test cricket, different people must have lent a helping hand at different stages. But the man who was at the heart of the star batter learning the basics and honing his skills in the formative years was coach Rajkumar Sharma.

As his superstar protege bid adieu from the longest format on Monday, Rajkumar was understandably overwhelmed with emotion.

"The immediate reaction to Kohli's retirement was very emotional. At the same time, I am very proud of what he has done for the country. It has been a legendary career," the 59-year-old told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Superstar protege: Kohli and his mother Saroj with coach Rajkumar at a function in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

"His biggest legacy is leading from the front as captain. His self-belief and the way he carried himself, his passion to win matches for the country, that was the best thing about him.

"The way he built a pool of fast bowlers was a remarkable contribution to Indian cricket. He changed the culture of Indian cricket by setting an example with his fitness and leadership," Rajkumar said.

Does he have a favourite Kohli knock?

"When he got four hundreds in Australia in 2014-15, he was at his best as a Test batter," responded the coach.

INBRIEF

Tait named Bangladesh pace bowling coach

Australia's Shaun Tait has been named Bangladesh's new pace bowling coach, the country's cricket board said on Monday. The 42-year-old Tait, who played 59 internationals for Australia between 2005 and 2016, replaces Andre Adams who had joined last year. "It's a good time to be involved with the Bangladesh cricket team right now, a bit of a new era if you like," Tait was quoted by a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) media release. Tait will start his new role later this month, and his contract runs until November 2027, the BCB said.

Indian challenge ends in World squash championships

Veer Chotrani, Abhay Singh, Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh lost to higher-ranked opponents in the second round as the Indian challenge ended in the World squash in Chicago on Sunday.

The results (second round): Men: Ali Farag (Egy) bt Veer Chotrani 7-11, 11-7, 11-3, 12-10; Marwan ElShorbagy (Eng) bt Ramit Tandon 11-9, 11-7, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8; Youssef Ibrahim (Egy) bt Abhay Singh 11-6, 11-6, 11-9.
Women: Fayrouz Aboelkheir (Egy) bt Anahat Singh 11-7, 8-11, 11-4, 11-3.

Bopanna and Pavlasek make the second round in Rome

Rohan Bopanna and Adam Pavlasek of the Czech Republic knocked out sixth seeds Nikola Mektic and Michael Venus 4-6, 7-6(5), [10-4] in the doubles first round of the €8,055,385 ATP tennis tournament in Rome on Monday. In the pre-quarterfinals, Bopanna and Pavlasek will play Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski of Britain.

Other results: Doubles: First round: Marcel Granollers (Esp) & Horacio Zeballos (Arg) bt Yuki Bhambri & Roben Galloway (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

Serie A title race heats up as Napoli slips after Inter's win

Gritty Genoa holds Conte's men to a 2-2 draw; the Milan outfit, which beat Torino 2-0, is just one point behind the leader with two rounds remaining in the league

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
NAPLES

Napoli's Serie A title hopes suffered a late setback on Sunday when it was held to a 2-2 draw at home against Genoa, setting up a thrilling season finale with Inter Milan just one point behind.

Napoli remains at the top with 78 points, holding a slim lead over Inter, which won 2-0 at Torino earlier on Sunday, with two rounds remaining.

Inter, which reached the Champions League final by beating Barcelona in a thrilling encounter on Tuesday, left several key players on the bench and rested others as it looked to keep the squad fresh ahead of the final stretch of the season.

Scott McTominay delivered a perfect pass into the box where Romelu Lukaku got rid of his marker before guiding his shot into the bottom corner to give Napoli the lead in the 15th minute.

Genoa equalised in the 32nd minute when Honest Ahanor's header hit the bar, with Napoli 'keeper Alex Meret initially parrying it into the post, only for the rebound to bounce off his body and into the net for an own goal.

The sombre mood at Diego Armando Maradona Stadium lifted in the 64th minute when Giacomo Raspadori drilled a screamer from close range, restoring Napoli's lead.

However, a Johan Vasquez header six minutes from time silenced the crowd as the realisation hit that the title race had been blown wide open again.

"Genoa had two shots on goal and scored both. These things happen too in football, when you concede a goal, you could've always done something better," Napoli manager Antonio Conte said.

Costly: Genoa's late equaliser stunned McTominay & Co. AFP

Support

In the Premier League, Andy Robertson sprang to the defence of Liverpool teammate Trent Alexander-Arnold after some fans booed the right back during his side's 2-2 draw at home to Arsenal.

Alexander-Arnold announced this week that he would leave on a free transfer when his contract is up at the end of the season.

"First of all, I'm disappointed to lose my best mate. In the game, we've done it all together. He's an amazing player and person.

"He's made a choice. His legacy at this club is obviously there to see. The trophies he's won, the moments he's had in history will always be there. It's an emotional decision. It's not nice to see a friend get booed, it wasn't nice. But as I said, we can't tell people how to act," Robertson said.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot also said that fans had the right to their opinions.

"There were people who were not so happy, there were people who were happy for him. They clapped for him. A few of them booed," the Dutchman said.

Top results: Serie A: Napoli 2 (Lukaku 15, Raspadori 64) drew with Genoa 2 (Meret 32-og, Vasquez 84); Torino 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Zalewski 14, Asllani 49-pen).
LaLiga: Athletic Bilbao 1 (Sanchez 71-og) bt Alaves 0; Real Betis 1 (Hernandez 64) drew with Osasuna 1 (Budimir 75).
Bundesliga: Stuttgart 4 (Karazor 8, Woltemade 51, Millot 80, Demirovic 87) bt Augsburg 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Kristensen 1, Batshuayi 71) drew with St Pauli 2 (Saliakas 4, Guilavogui 15).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Adhokshaj shines

M. Adhokshaj (8/107) starred for Visweswarapuram CC (2) against Chintamani SA in their drawn KSCA Group I, Division II tournament.

The scores: Chintamani SA 174 in 49 overs (Cyril Christie 31, Shreehaan Arinjai 37 n.o., Ansh Aima 4/60) and 298/8 in 64.1 overs (Revanth Bairy 33, Aaron Cyril Christie 75, Saharsh Reddy 58, Anas Sheikh 47, Shreehaan Arinjai 35, M. Adhokshaj 8/107) drew with Visweswarapuram CC (2) 144 in 46.1 overs (Diwakar Shankar 46).
Malleswaram Gymkhana 511/2 in 90 overs (Gyan Somaiah 139, C.R. Kumarswamy 40, R. Badrinaryanan 168 n.o., Shreyank Sagar 162 n.o.) drew with Engrades Cricket Club 434 in 83.5 overs (Abu 122, S.U. Sureen 57, Vishnu Balaji 106, S. Kishore 48 n.o., C.R. Kumarswamy 3/82).
Century Cricketers 432/9 in 90 overs (Gagan Rao 58, Harsha Wardhan Khuba 112, Rishav Appachu Manavatira 64, Hari Rajiv 57, Madhav Bajaj 91 n.o., Shimon Luiz 6/158) and 27/1 in 4.5 overs drew with Jawahar SC (2) 206 in 51.1 overs (K. Rakshith 42, H.D. Prajwal Gowda 71, Mashooq Hussain 40, Madhav Bajaj 6/59).
Wilson Garden CC 166 in 44 overs (Talha Sheriff 35, Rehan Mohammed 52, Lavish Kaushal 7/38) and 42/1 in 9 overs (Talha Sheriff 26 n.o.) drew with Vijaya CC 393 in 90 overs (N. Samarth 40, Liyan Khan 115, Rahul Vernekar 57, Nandkumar Kolhapure 35, S. Agastya 58 n.o., Milind Mali 3/91).
Visweswarapuram CC (1) 339 in 87.2 overs (Rishab Nayak 28, Amay Tejas 66, Nishith Raj 33, P.S. Vikram 93, B. Vineeth 5/131) drew with Dooravani Cricketers (1) 206 in 66.3 overs (M. Shivu 28, M.P. Shashank 72, B. Harsha 40, Ashish Nayak 3/38, S.A. Sooraj 6/39).
The Bangalore Cricketers 358/9 in 70 overs (M. Tanush 65, Bhushan 56, S. Daivik 69, R. Akshay 29, Manjunath 37, Vinayak Holla 25 n.o., Keshav Manjunath 34 n.o., Ajay Bhide 3/105, P. Gourav 4/129) drew with Jupiter CA 152 in 62.5 overs (Vishnu Goudar 33, P. Gourav 52, Vinayak Holla 5/43) and 216/7 in 48 overs (Udhay Girish 37, Prahas Nairy 39, Arnavv Sharma 69 n.o., Vaasav Venkatesh 47, Vinayak Holla 5/87).
Modern CC 140 in 43.4 overs (R. Suhas 34, Aman Mallya 26, Saawan Sriragg 4/31, Akash Pattar 5/38) and 166 in 46.2 overs (Pratheek 30, R. Suhas 48, Lakshan 34, Ronith Iyengar 5/46) drew with Minerva CC 180 in 50.1 overs (Amogh Shetty 42, K.N. Anish 71, Akash Pattar 31, Kazi Abrar 5/46) and 79/6 in 18 overs (Arun Bharadwaj 24, Kazi Abrar 3/34).
Jawahar SC (1) 314 in 74.2 overs (V. Prithvi 149 n.o., Vedanth Iyer 25, Raghuveer 80, Manik Raj 5/61) drew with Whirlwind Cricketers 193 in 85.4 overs (Krishav Somasundar 26, R. Prateeksh 36, Manik Raj 66, Shreevathsa Acharya 3/31, Amogh 5/48).

Prajwal Pavan shines

Prajwal Pavan (80 n.o.) powered Herons CC past Jawahar SC (1) in the KSCA T20 tournament here.

The scores: Jawahar SC (1) 108/6 in 20 overs (Vedanth Iyer 26, Surya Srinivas 31 n.o.) lost to Herons CC 112/1 in 11.4 overs (Prajwal Pavan 80 n.o., Faizan Khan 25).
Jayanagar United Cricketers 59/4 in 8 overs lost to Vijaya CC 60/4 in 4.2 overs (Yash Jadhav 41) (overs reduced due to wet outfield).
Hammonds CC 99/8 in 20 overs (N.G. Kushal 27, B. Harsha 3/13) lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1) 80/2 in 11 overs (M. Keerthi 28, Mohit Sharma 38 n.o.) (by 34 runs by VJD method, match interrupted by rain).
Wilson Garden CC 84/2 in 8 overs (Pavan 50 n.o.) bt Young Lions Club 72/6 in 8 overs (Pavan 3/11) (overs reduced due to wet outfield).
Jolly Cricketers 69/9 in 10 overs (Monith Narayan 29, Maribasava Gowda 4/16) lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 70/1 in 8.4 overs (Atharv Malviya 45 n.o.) (overs reduced due to wet outfield).
Visweswarapuram CC (2) 59/6 in 10 overs lost to Bangalore Occasionals 61/1 in 5.4 overs (Niranjan 34 n.o.) (overs reduced due to wet outfield).

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